THE MUSICAL TIMES

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FEBRUARY 1, 1882.

Price 3d.; Post-free, 4d. Annual Subscription, Postage-free, 4s.

RPHEUS MUSICAL SOCIETY .-

Melusina (a Cantata) H. Hofmann. Ladies and Gentlemen wishing to join this Society are requested to the application to Mr. Docker, 115, Priory Road, West Hampstead. The subscription is Half a Guinea, and members are requested to de themselves with all music for practice

THE TUFNELL PARK CHORAL SOCIETY HE TUPNELL PARK CHORAL SOCIETY
Conductor, Mr. W. Hunky Thomas.—will give a PUBLIC CONERT at the Athenaum, Camden Road, on Thursday Evening,
fruary 2, 1882, at 8 o'clock. Doors open at 7.30. Tickets (Reserved
& Numbered Seats) 48: Unreserved Seats, as, can be obtained at
& Athenaum. Hofmann's Cantata, CINDERELLA, will be permed for the first time in England, and the first part of Haydn's
storio, THE CREATION. Artists: Miss Margaret Hoare, Miss
et, and Miss Philps, Mr. James Sauvage, Mr. A. Smith, Mr. Grylls,
& Mr. Lewis Thomas.

Valice—The Rehearsals of the Tuffiell Park Choral Society take

EMr. Lewis Thomas.
Notice.—The Rehearsals of the Tufnell Park Choral Society take in the St. George's Church Room, Carleton Road, Tufnell Park, Susciption for the remainder of the Season, Members or Honorary Suscribers, Half a Guinea. Honorary Subscribers will have two served Seats for the Bowe Concert and four Tickets for the last witation Concert of the Season at Easter.

Ladies and Gentlemen desirous of becoming Members are requested apply to the Conductor, Mr. W. Henry Thomas, 7, Lidlington Place, urington Square, N.W.

USICAL UNION.—38th Season.—M. JULES

ATURDAY POPULAR ORGAN RECITALS, Bow and Bromley Institute, E., every SATURDAY, 8 p.m. Admisn, Threepence; Chairs, Sixpence.

THE SCOTTISH SIMS REEVES, HAMILTON CORBETT, in the Steinway Hall, Portman Square, commering MONDAY, February 6, under the distinguished patronage of Highland Society of London.

ONDON CHURCH CHOIR ASSOCIATION .-This Association offers the sum of TEN GUINEAS for a triple of the TE DEUM, to be sung at the Tenth Annual Festival, at Faul's Cathedral, in November nest. Dr. Stainer and Dr. Bridge all act as umpires. Printed particulars may be had on application to sesses. Novello, Ewer and Co., 1, Berners Street, W.

OLLEGE OF ORGANISTS. - On TUESDAY, OELEGIE OF ORGANISTS.—On TUESDAY,

February 7, at 8, W. A. Barrertr, Esq., Mus. Bac., F.C.O., will

ture on "Old English Country Songs," with musical illustrations.

Spencer Curwen, Esq., will read a Paper on "Welsh Popular

usic," on Tuesday, March 7, at 8.

F. H. TURPIN, Hon. Sec.

T. GEORGE, Hanover Square.—WANTED, for the Choir of this Church, a SOPRANO (Lady) and TENOR. bwerful voices and fair reading indispensable. Stipend, £10. Duties: no services on Sunday, Good Friday, and Christmas Day, and one tekly practice. Apply, by letter, to W. Pinney, Mus. B., 70, Elgin Inscent, Notting Hill, W. 2 6

TREE VACANCIES in a resident Country Choir for two LEADING TREBLES. Orphans (gentlemen's sons) referred. Address, Precentor, Messrs. Novello, Ewer and Co., 1, terners Street, W.

WANTED, a leading CHOIRBOY for All Saints', Knightsbridge, S.W. Apply to Mr. F. W. Belchamber, Grove Place, Brompton, S.W.

CITY CHURCH CHOIR.—There is a VACANCY or a CONTRALTO VOICE in the Choir of St. Alphage, London Wall. The duties comprise two services on Sunday and a rehearsal on Thursday evening. Service, full choral. Salary, £ 10 per annum. Candidates must be well up in Church music, and be able to read fairly at sight. Address, with testimonials or references, Organist, care of R. A. Knight and Co., 3, Abchurch Lane, E.C.

ONTRALTO.-REQUIRED for St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark, a Lady with a good voice and fair reader, thoral service. Small gratuity given. Apply to Organist, after Wednesday evening service.

A LTO, TENOR and BOYS' VOICES WANTED. Must be able to read Cathedral service. Apply at St. Mary-at-Hill Church, Eastcheap, on Sundays.

TENOR WANTED for All Saints' Church, S. Lambeth. £10 per annum. Address, Mr. W. H. Holmes, 42, Chantrey Road, Stockwell, S.W.

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BASS (not Baritone) WANTED, for surpliced choir in Kensington. First-rate reader indispensable. Thursday practice and two Sunday services. Salary, £10. Address, Organist, 163, Piccadilly, W.

WANTED, a CHOIRMAN, who could occa-bass voice. Good reader in Anglican music. Communicant, with clerical reference. Two services on Sundays and high days. Friday evening fixed rehearsal. Suipend, £15. Address, N. B. P., Messrs. Novello, Ewer and Co., i, Berners Street, W.

A N ORGANIST WANTED for St. Mary's Church A (Iron), Stamford Brook, Hammersmith. A Freeman Greene, 26, Linden Gardens, Bayswater. Apply to Rev. W. E.

ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER WANTED, Organ new; cost £200 Apply to the Rector.

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WANTED, for the Church of the Annunciation, Chiselhuret, the above. Must be resident, catholic, and a thorough musician. Organ of 21 stops. Psalms, Gregorian; choral celebrations, with occasional festival services. Salary, £100. Address, with references, Rev. H. Lloyd Russell, The Vicarage.

ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER WANTED, for St. Paul's Church, Dorking, at the end of March. Plain service. Sundays and on Wednesday evenings. CC Organ, two manuals. Salary, £40 per annum. A gentleman who can reside in the neighbourhood preferred. Apply, by letter, to the Vicar, St. Paul's Dorking. Paul's, Dorking.

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6 E.C.

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March 7; Tunbridge Wells to follow; Birmingham (Musical Association), 18; &c. Many other dates pending for all parts. Vacancies for
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4. Performance on any Orchestral Instrument.

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had gratis of the Secretary, Trinity College, London, W.

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Baron Bödog Orczy; Humphrey J. Stark, Mus. B.

COUNTERPOINT—F. E. Gladstone, Mus. D.; H. J. Stark, Mus. B.

FORM AND ORCHESTRATION.—E. H. Turpin, L.Mus.T.C.L.

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Mus. B., King Hall, Miss Alma Sanders, Mrs. Baskcomb, Fredk.

G. Cole, LMus.T.C.L., G. E. Bambridge, Ridley Prentice.

ENSEMBLE PIANOFORTE CLASS.—Sir Julius Benedict.

ORGAN.—W. S. Hoyte, L.Mus.T.C.L.; W. Pinney, Mus. B.

HARMONIUM.—King Hall.

SOLD STRONG.—F. Schira, A. Visetti, J. C. Beuthin, J. H. Nappi,

Wallace Wells, Miss Kate Steel.

VIOLIN.—J. T. Carrodus, L. Szczepanowski.

VIOLONCELLO.—E. Woolhouse. FLUTE.—John Radcliff. Oboc.—

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THE MUSICAL TIMES

AND SINGING-CLASS CIRCULAR.

FEBRUARY 1, 1882.

"BENVENUTO CELLINI."

THE circumstances connected with the composition of this opera, and with its production both in England and abroad, have so recently been stated in our columns that we may now devote all the space

at command to a notice of the work itself.

That Berlioz was not fortunate in his librettists, MM. de Wailly and Auguste Barbier, may be said even without reference to the character of the drama with which they provided him. They pleased neither their first public nor their first critics. When "Benwas produced at the Grand-Opéra (September, 1838) the audience received some of the scenes with a storm of disapprobation; at certain of the incidents they laughed in derision, and generally took up such an attitude with reference to the literary part of the work that considerable excisions and alterations were made before a second performance could be attempted. The professional critics were scarcely less severe. One declared that "anything more puerile than the drama of 'Benvenuto Cellini' it is hardly possible to imagine," while a writer in Galignani's Messenger asserted that "had Mozart's chef-d'auvre, the music of 'Don Juan,' been adapted to such a libretto, it would infallibly have been con-demned." The English critics were of the same mind as their Parisian brethren when the work made its appearance at Covent Garden in 1853. Musical World—a journal well disposed to Berlioz—pronounced the book "one of the silliest ever written," and the terse judgment of our contemporary was more or less warmly supported by the rest of the press. "The result," said a writer immediately after the events at the Grand-Opéra, "affords another illustration of a fact which composers seem determined never to admit-namely, that the only secure foundation for an opera is a good libretto. Berlioz, however, can hardly be blamed in the matter. He had not then discovered that he himself could write poetry—witness the book of "Les Troyens" and he went to the best available men. M. Barbier enjoyed a reputation based upon poetical works of real power, while M. de Wailly's romance, "Angelica Kauffman," had given him an enviable literary name. Yet both failed. So true is it, in stage matters especially, that the best laid schemes "gang aft agee.

The reader shall now judge the character of the plot and its incidents for himself. The scene is laid in Rome, under the reign of Pope Clement VII., and the action takes place during the Carnival season. The sculptor, Benvenuto Cellini, being engaged upon a bronze statue of Perseus for his Holiness, comes into contact with Balducci, the Papal Treasurer, with whose daughter, Teresa, he falls in love, and finds his passion returned. His suit, however, is not favoured by Balducci. This is the situation at the rise of the curtain. The action begins with a stolen interview of the lovers, in which Benvenuto persuades Teresa to elope with him; and it is arranged that when both are participating in the Carnival revels on the morrow, they shall recognise each other's disguise and make off. Unfortunately, the plot is overheard by a rival, Fieramosca, who at once resolves to adopt Benvenuto's disguise, be first in the field, and appropriate the lady himself. Balducci, at this point, returns home. Benvenuto escapes unseen; but Fieramosca is not so lucky, and only just employed can be analysed to any good purpose save

saves himself from the summary vengeance of the enraged father's household and neighbours. Here ends the first act. The second act opens on a Carnival scene in the Plaza di Colonna. Cellini, and some of his pupils, are drinking at a wineshop, and find the reckoning too heavy for them, when Ascanio, a favourite student, brings some money paid in advance for the statue by the Pope. The amount does not satisfy Benvenuto, and, to be revenged upon his Holiness's niggardly Treasurer, the sculptor proposes that one of the young men present shall simulate Balducci in a pantomime about to be played on the stage of one of the street theatres. Presently the Treasurer appears, accompanied by his daughter, and sees himself held up to the laughter of the crowd as King Midas, with very long ears. Irritated beyond endurance, Balducci attacks the performers, and at this moment of tumult, Benvenuto and Fieramosca, dressed precisely alike as monks, try to carry off Teresa each for himself. At once divining the trick on seeing his "double," Benvenuto draws his sword; but the rival runs away leaving a friend, Pompeo, to bear the brunt. Pompeo is quickly despatched, and then Benvenuto takes to flight, closely pursued by the mob, while Ascanio conducts Teresa to his master's foundry. Upon this exciting scene the curtain falls for the second time. The third act—now considerably changed from what it was at first-opens in the foundry, whither Ascanio brings Teresa. The lady is in despair, when Benvenuto enters, and relates the manner of his escape from the mob. All this time Balducci and Fieramosca are on his track. They appear and reproach him with his misdeeds. Soon, however, a greater man arrives on the scene. He is Cardinal Salviati, the Papal Minister, who hears with astonishment and indignation of the sculptor's offence. Benvenuto must answer to the law, and another artist must cast the statue. Against this decree, the sculptor protests; snatches a hammer, and is about to break the mould, when the Cardinal interferes, and gives Benvenuto an hour in which to complete his task on pain of death. The artist accepts; but then the workmen come protesting that they have no more metal to throw into the furnace. Intensely moved Benvenuto orders them to sacrifice castings already completed by throwing them into the flames. This done the liquid ore is released, and runs into the mould. Soon Benvenuto breaks the mould; the statue is seen in ravishing beauty, and the Cardinal, the artist, and all join in celebrating his genius. Then, upon a scene of general rejoicing, the curtain finally descends.

We must admit that this is not an heroic story nor one that accords with the bent of the composer's mind. Its incidents are often vulgar, its personages excite little or no sympathy, and its motives are anything but noble. It is usual, howmotives are anything but noble. It is usual, how-ever, to judge opera libretti by the scope they give for musical effect rather than by their intrinsic merits; and the book of "Benvenuto" certainly presents opportunities enough to satisfy any musician willing to take such things as they come. It need hardly be pointed out that the business of the last scene is ludicrously unreal. Without expecting too much verisimilitude in opera, we may claim that a line must be drawn somewhere; and no reasonable line can include the act of a sculptor who breaks his mould directly after the molten metal has run into it. The scene, however, comes in a good place for our English public. It ends the opera, and will be played when the audience are rushing for carriages or, with an eye on the doorway, donning their outer garments.

No work by Berlioz in which an orchestra is

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from the full score, so much does the character of his music depend upon the details of its instrumentation. Our present purpose, however, is not analysis. We seek merely to give a general idea of the various numbers, their sequence and relative importance. For this the ordinary pianoforte score sufficiently serves.

The overture is a distinct piece introduced by an Allegro deciso in G major (22 bars), after which comes a Larghetto in the same key, leading to the principal movement—a resumption of the Allegro deciso, now worked out in proper form. Berlioz soon asserts the independence and variety of his rhythms. The Larghetto—a stream of melody and rich harmonies—is not distinguished in this respect, it is true; but when the theme of the Allegro reappears, the master, as though in very wantonness, heralds it by two bars of syncopation. Observe the character of the theme itself:—



By way of contrast, the second subject, in the orthodox key, is more regularly constructed, but the movement as a whole illustrates the almost erratic spirit in which the composer exercised his powers. vigour is unflagging, and, at moments when its harmonies are of the hardiest, its progress suggests that of some forest monster crashing a path for itself through all obstacles. The musical interest of the first dramatic number appears, at the outset, in the orchestra. Balducci, like Dr. Bartolo, orders his fair charge from the window, and grumbles at having to leave home, while a theme, introduced fugally, passes from instrument to instrument. To this number, however, belongs a short chorus of masks, which is very characteristic. Let the opening bars



We have next an air wherein, after receiving Cellini's billet, Teresa reasons that hot youth should not be guided in love matters by cold age. The Cavatina (Larghetto) opens very sedately, but contains an episode of striking contrast both as regards subject and treatment. Following the Cavatina comes an Allegro con fuoco, by way of cabaletta; and as the whole begins with a recitative, we have the conventional Italian scenain, at least, its essential form. The Allegro—a rondo in D major—is not specially distinctive, but may claim to be melodious, bright, and pleasing. The next number begins dra-

matic action in earnest. Cellini having found his way into Balducci's house, the lovers carry on a dialogue interspersed with snatches, for orchestra, of the chorus of masks. An Andante follows, carried on for some time in dialogue form. The theme is one of uncommon symmetry—

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and, at the beginning of the ensemble, is treated as a canon on the octave, the voices being a single beat No one can hear this movement without admiration. The duet continues with an Allegro, in which Cellini unfolds his plan, but soon gives place to a trio, as the listening Fieramosca comments upon what he hears. Marked by great vivacity and point, this movement is in the true spirit of comic opera, and might have been written by Auber. In admirable contrast comes an episode suggested by the maiden's qualms of conscience, and when these are removed the whole of the sparkling trio is repeated. Finally the episode also recurs, while Fieramosca pursues the original theme, the two thus moving together for some time in ingenious fashion, and with excellent dramatic effect. This trio, we may add, has always been accounted one of the very best numbers in the opera. The finale to Act I. is not greatly extended, but sufficiently bustling. Responding to the cries of Teresa and Balducci, the servants and neighbours gather together literally to put Fieramosca under the pump as a libertine; and he, frightened to death, compares himself to Orpheus pursued by the Bacchantes. The theme of the neighbours, taken up in succession by different groups, is capital :-



In the spirit of this extract the ensemble continues till Fieramosca escapes, and the curtain falls.

The second act opens with a romance for Cellini, in which he declares that his passion for artistic renown has yielded to the more tender passion of love. An andantino in B flat, the air is of quite regular construction, melodious and expressive, but presents nothing calling for particular notice. A short drinking chorus is sung by Cellini's pupils, and one calls for a song. Here the sculptor intervenes. He will have them sing of their noble art, and not of the joys of wine. The command is obeyed, and an extended chorus of elaborate design follows. Here is the leading theme, given out by Bernardino, a pupil, and all the first basses in unison:—



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constitutes a kind of rallying point to which the music returns after divers more or less fanciful or eccentric excursions. The chorus, we should add, abounds in the *élan* of youth, and so far is a true students' outpouring. Bernardino now calls for more wine, but the landlord presents his bill and runs over the items in a spirit of rueful comedy which the music happily expresses. The convives protest with energy against his charges, but the question is how to pay them. "Wait for Ascanio" says Cellini, and Ascanio soon appears with a sum of money from the Papal treasury. The youth here sings a short air of no particular merit, in which he states he can hand over the cash only on condition that Cellini and his men swear to finish the statue of Perseus on the morrow. This condition having been fulfilled in a vigorous chorus, principally unison, the money changes hands. The scene in which Cellini proposes to burlesque Balducci now follows, and with a reference to the chorus in praise of their art, the party breaks up. We are next introduced to Fieramosca alone. He is preparing for his expedition, and sings an air expressive of his love for Teresa, after some vaunting to keep his courage up. This number is certainly a remarkable one, and well illustrates the master's characteristics as a dramatic composer. Greater disregard for musical form per se not even Wagner could show. Towards the close of the song Fieramosca makes passes with his sword as though encountering Cellini, and here we have some curious rhythmical devices :-

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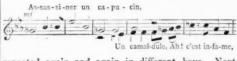
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The Carnival scene now begins, heralded by a lively passage for orchestra. Balducci and Teresa appear, followed by Cellini and Ascanio dressed as monks, and a quartet commences, in which the soli themes just previously sung by the four characters are cleverly combined. Finally the people join, as they talk of the coming performance of "Il Re Midas." Then the bateleurs are heard inviting the people to see the show, and here again the master's rhythmic diversity stands him in good stead:—



In this spirit and in dialogue form the chorus runs on for some time. At last silence is proclaimed and the pantomime begins. With short ejaculations the people recognise the travesty of Balducci, and their comments, together with those of the outraged Treasurer, fill up the musical foreground so to speak. Presently the chatter of the women comes out from the more slow and stolid utterances of the men, and all are engrossed with the pantomime, when, at a particular part, Balducci can stand it no longer. He protests; the people mock, and, in the confusion, Cellini accosts Teresa. But so does Fieramosca also, dressed as a monk, and having with him a friend, Pompeo, in similar disguise. All this while the orchestra is running on in liveliest fashion, and so continues, as though derisively, when the business becomes more serious. Cellini and Fieramosca storm at each other; swords are drawn; Fieramosca runs away, and Pompeo is despatched by the enraged artist. The chorus of indignation which follows is striking. First come two contrasted themes-



repeated again and again in different keys. Next we have an ascending scale passage in unison, breaking into harmony on the summit:—



This is also repeated, while intense agitation occasionally finds expression in syncopated passages:—



After the progression just cited, one report of a cannon is heard from St. Angelo, and then another, which puts out all the lights. Terrible confusion ensues. The guards seek to retain their prisoner, Cellini, and his pupils to rescue him. Meanwhile a

massive chorus goes on, throughout which the subjoined unison theme plays a prominent part-



and in the end Cellini escapes, while Ascanio hurries off with Teresa. The whole of this finale is powerful; somewhat rough and coarse, perhaps, but instinct everywhere with dramatic spirit. In point of noise

few things of the kind excel it.

The third act, which opens in the house of Cellini, adjoining his atelier, is introduced by a short orchestral movement founded on the theme (already quoted) of the pupils' chorus at the beginning of Act II. This leads into a chorus of workmen, who complain that while the master takes his pleasure they must labour. Though short, the chorus has a decided character, due in part to the frequent and longcontinued repetition of a lugubrious figure-



which might well stand as the musical expression of a grumble. When the men have passed into the foundry, Teresa and Ascanio appear. The lady is almost in despair, but Ascanio affects gaiety as he retires to put off his monkish garb. Then the workmen are heard singing a wild and plaintive melody-



which Bernardino, who is busy in the room, connects with ill-fortune as one of evil omen. At the conclusion of the song, Ascanio re-enters, still assuming light-heartedness, and sings a gay air-





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characterised by pretty melody and extremely simple treatment-coming, therefore, as a welcome relie after so much turmoil and complication. From th air he passes to a rehearsal of the scene whence he has just fled, counterfeiting the actors in it as he repeats their words. Finally he returns to the air and brings his most important musical contribution to a happy end. A short dialogue follows on the subject of Cellini's safety, soon interrupted by a chorus of passing monks, who, in bare fifths, intone a Litany to the Virgin as they wend their way to a Litany to the Virgin as they wend their way to some function. This suggests a prayer to Teresa and Ascanio, and forthwith the pair add their special supplications to those of the religious outside:-



In this fashion the prayer is for some time prolonged, the sound of the monks' voices dying away in the distance. As it ends, Cellini appears, and is rapturously welcomed. We now learn the story of his escape in a récit mesuré (allegro), throughout the first part of which the movement of the orchestral basses is a special feature:-



Ascanio having departed to make arrangement for flight to Florence, the lovers sing a duet of a very melodious, but at the same time distinctive, character. Its opening bars are sufficiently representative-



and its form, we may add, is orthodox in all essential respects. Having found general acceptance as one of the most pleasing numbers in the work, the duet may look for a favourable reception amongst ourselves. Fieramosca and Balducci now discover Cellini, and we pass again into a region of strife. There is great energy in the onslaught of the old father-

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who, heedless of his daughter's prayers, enjoins Fieramosca to take away his wife from Cellini. not particularly brave man declines the task, awed by Cellini's threats. At this crisis the Cardinal enters to a solemn strain from the orchestra, and, continuing the strain, bestows his blessing upon the kneeling Balducci and Fieramosca lose not a moment in appealing for justice, the one following the other in canonic form :-



The Cardinal demands particulars, and again the father's voice, imitated by that of the rival, is heard. Ascene of attack and defence follows but the Cardinal thinks more of the statue than of justice, and when Cillini owns that it is not yet cast, his Eminence basses becomes really angry, declaring that the work shall he completed by another. On this Cellini waxes furious in his turn, and expresses himself in a passage of immense vigour, ending thus :-



The Cardinal orders his arrest, but the sculptor, seizing a hammer, threatens to destroy the mould. A parley follows, and, after some dialogue in recitative, the Cardinal pronounces that if the statue be not completed in an hour Cellini shall suffer death. A short sestet of astonishment, pity, and entreaty then precedes the adjournment to the foundry of all save Cellini and his guards. Left thus to himself the sculptor muses upon his destiny, while the orchestral basses convey the gloomy colour of his



A short recitative then leads to an air in which he longs for the life of a simple shepherd on the mountains. Always happy with subjects of a pastoral character, Berlioz here is seen at his best. The accompaniments are delightfully characteristic, and the melody ranks among the best of the master's long-drawn tunes. Thus it begins:—



The finale, at which we now arrive, takes place in the foundry. A bustling orchestral passage, the idea of which may be conveyed by quoting a single



depicts the active life of the place; but soon there is a cry for more metal. In short, detached phrases the alarm sounds over the foundry, and the artist confesses that he has none left. In despair, Cellini prays to heaven for help, his pitiful entreaty rising higher and higher :-



Then comes a happy thought, and he orders his assistants to sacrifice all his completed castings. This done, we have another orchestral interlude, at the close of which, with words of proud defiance,

Cellini breaks the mould whereinto the molten liquid has run—



and reveals the statue. Then comes a dialogue of forgiveness and reconciliation, and the Pupils' Chorus (already twice heard) brings the opera to a

triumphant end.

To convey even an approximate idea of the harmonic structure of the music in "Benvenuto Cellini" would take up far more space than can be accorded here. Enough that it is in its way remarkable, full of hardihood, which sometimes results in hardness, and distinguished by a large measure of the independence asserted by Berlioz in every one of his important efforts. The fate of the work in England we cannot pretend to foretell. That the story will not operate much against it may, however, be affirmed; and as the stage is bustling throughout, as the musical and scenic effects are broad, and as the name of Berlioz is now a name of power, it is decidedly on the cards that the forthcoming production of "Benvenuto Cellini" at Her Majesty's Theatre will prove a success.

THE MASTERSINGERS OF NUREMBERG AN ANALYSIS OF RICHARD WAGNER'S OPERA

By F. CORDER.

(Continued from page 12.)

Hans Sachs, having beaten Eva out of the field with her own weapons, chuckles and retires into his house, but only to listen to the result of his artful manceuvre. For he has determined to help the lovers and at the same time defeat any rash folly of which they may be guilty. Magdalena wants Eva to come in, as it is now late and they have to decide what to do about Beckmesser, who intends to come in the night and serenade Miss Pogner with the prize-song by which he hopes to win her on the morrow. It is decided that Magdalena shall go to the window instead of Eva, who seems already to be contemplating an elopement. After impatient waiting, Walter rushes down the alley and the lovers meet again.

Here we might expect one of those love-scenes in which the composer shows himself at his greatest— but no! The dramatic situation will not properly admit of such a thing, and the musician in Wagner must always give way to the dramatist. After a few endearments, accompanied in a most wild and tumultuous fashion, the first phrase of our last quotation being the only recognisable theme flung up at intervals from the orchestral billows, Walter upon the subject of his wrongs, and utters a long tirade against his enemies the Masters. The music here is wild and furious, working chiefly the Marker motive (No. 13) and the phrase (No. 9a). At the climax, Walter is interrupted and startled by the approaching sound of the Night-Watchman's horn, and Eva makes him hide behind a tree till the danger is over, she, meanwhile, retiring indoors. Here we have a theme which seems intended to represent our heroine, or else her projected elopement:—

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Then the old Watchman crosses the stage, singing the old traditional song to the old traditional tune:—

Hark to what I say, good people; Strikes ten from every steeple, Put out your fire and eke your light That no one may take harm this night: Praise the Lord of Heaven!

A funny effect is here made by the song being in F. and the Watchman's horn in F sharp, causing horrible discord. The coast being clear Watter is enraptured by the reappearance of Eva, disguised in Mag.lalena's tolothes. Here appear some more suggestions of the master-song which Walter composes later on; the idea of this being inspired by his love for Eva is very beautifully worked out. As the lovers prepare to fly, Sachs, who has kept on the watch, lets fall a stream of light across the street from his lamp, so that discovery is inevitable. They draw back into the shadow, uncertain what to do, when the tinkling of a lute is heard, suggesting to Sachs a still more ingenious mode of teasing, yet protecting the lovers, of revenging himself for Beckmesser's impertinence, and at the same time indulging his own love of a joke. Beckmesser comes and plants himself before Pogner's house to serenade Eva, thus effectually preventing the lovers from passing down the alley to escape, and Sachs turns his mischievousness to play against him. Just as the serenade is about to begin the cobbler strikes up a rough, not to say profane, ditty, hammering lustily on his last. This song is too long to quote with any effect, but it has a fine bold melody, of which the cobbler's motive forms the refrain. In spite of all Beckmesser's entreaties, Sachs insists upon singing three long verses, and is about to encore himself when the Marker contrives a parley. Before proceeding we should point out how in the third verse of this cobbler's song, where the sentiment becomes more poetic, the violoncello sustains a melody of a totally distinct character, which in the third act becomes the symbol of Hans Sachs's poetical nature. It runs thus :-



The lovers are hiding under the lime-tree in an agony of suspense, and Beckmesser is wanting to begin his song. Sachs refuses to leave off his job, not wishing any more abuse from the Marker for his delay in finishing the shoes, and he cannot work without singing. After long argument it is agreed that Beckmesser shall proceed with his serenade and Sachs shall mark the faults by strokes of his hammer:—

Beck. But you must agree to restrain your tool, And not strike when I am breaking no rule.

Sachs. Though a cobbler, my power I'll not abuse, Though my fingers itch to complete those shoes, Noru master's word?

Sachs. And cobbler's truth.

Beck. If it is faultless, fair and smooth—
Sachs. Then you must go unshod, forsooth!

sing w

And under these ridiculous circumstances the song is sung, but to Magdalena, who appears at the window in Eva's dress. The above dispute has been held to an ingenious working-out of the cobbler-motive and the first bar of No. 9a. Beckmesser's serenade is a piece of farcical nonsense; the words are made to go as wrongly as possible to the music, and the tune, involving as far as possible nothing but the open notes of a guitar or lute, is preposterous: e.g .-

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kmesser ll mark lute, is preposterous: e.g. I see the dawning daylight, With great pleasure I do; For now my heart takes a right Courage both fresh and new. I do not think of dying, Rather of trying A young maiden to win. Oh, wherefore doth the weather Then 10-day so excel? I to all say together 'Tis because a damsel By her beloved father, At his wish rather To be wed doth yo in. The bold man who Would come and view May see the maiden there so true On whom my hopes I firmly glue; Therefore is the sky so bright blue As I said to begin. As I said to begin,

The principal features of the music to this ridiculous



"I see the dawning daylight, With great pleasure I do."

Sachs drives the wretched Marker frantic by his perpetual corrections and hammerings, winding up by copying his sneer to Walter: "Have you nearly finished? . . . I've finished with the shoes, that's all." He retires, shouting with laughter at the consciousness of having paid off old scores, while Beckmesser desperately hurries through the last verse of his unlucky serenade. But new misfortunes befall. David is awakened by the noise, and beholds a man serenading his Magdalena. He leaps out of the window, and attacks him. The neighbours are also roused by these unusual nocturnal sounds, and begin to collect at door and window. Excited by the fight, they gradually join in-Prentices, Journeymen, and the public at large, till the row becomes general. Women scream from the windows, and pour water on the heads of the combatants to separate them; the masters and old citizens come out and threaten them in vain. The subject of this ensemble, which is in about twenty-two separate vocal parts, is a theme made from phrases in the serenade, thus-



the upper part being the "street-riot" motive, which is worked fugally with the passages in thirds for a counter-subject. Simultaneously with this fugue the trombones play the serenade in its normal form. The uproar and confusion of this ingenious and original scene are beyond description; indeed, to shirk the almost insuperable task of teaching a chorus in more than twenty parts which is only chaos when sung, it is not uncommon in performance to let every one sing what and how he chooses, and this increases

the fun of the scene without hurting the effect, the When the riot orchestra having it all its own way. is at its height-cudgels flying, oaths and abuse resounding-Walter resolves to make a dash for it and escape with Eva in the confusion, but the watchful Sach's clears a path to them with his strap, and shouting, "Get in, Mistress Lena," hands the terrified girl to her father, who has appeared in his nightcap, sent in Lena (thinking her to be his daughter), and come out on the doorstep to look for the missing servant. Sachs then tears David from the wretched Beckmesser, whom he is still pounding, kicks him into the shop, and drags Walter in there with him, locking and bolting his door. At the same moment the sound of the Watchman's horn is heard; a panic seizes the crowd; they disperse with ludicrous rapidity, so that by the time the old man totters round the corner rubbing his eyes and staring about to find the cause of the noise, the stage is quite empty. As he discordantly sings-

Hark to what I say, good people: Eleven strikes from each steeple; Defend you all from spectre and sprite, Let no evil pow'r your souls affright. Praise the Lord of Heaven—

the murmur of the orchestra dies away, the "Eva" motive (No. 18) peacefully reappears, pervaded by little scraps of the serenade; and as the battered Marker limps home, avoiding the Watchman, and leaving the so lately crowded stage empty and silent, the curtain falls—a striking end to perhaps the most strikingly original and humorous scene in all opera.

The Prelude to the third act is one of those pieces of programme-music—tone-pictures, to use a rather affected expression—which Wagner alone of all composers knows how to write. Analysed, it is found to be a mere collection of scraps taken from various themes allotted to Hans Sachs. But who can analyse the gorgeous orchestral colouring, or the nameless charm which causes this formless fot-fourri to con-jure up before our eyes the old cobbler-poet, seated in his chair in the morning sunlight, reading his big volume, while all around him is peace and holiday brightness? The groundwork of the movement is the "Hans Sachs" motive already quoted (Nos. 1962 and 1961), the second half of which bears a short fugato leading to a beautiful choral, said to be by Hans Sachs himself. Half way through this we wander off into scraps of the cobbler's song, which have entirely lost their grotesque character, and become serious and poetic. The violins, with an imitation on a phrase which before had no importance-



rise higher and higher till they seem to vanish in the sky, when the choral is resumed below by the brass and finished, its close being interrupted by a return of the "Hans Sachs" motive fully harmonised in the strings, bringing the movement to an end in the following exquisitely beautiful manner:-





The close is, as usual, broken by the entry of another subject-the Prentices' music (No. 7), the curtain rising at the same time, and showing us the interior of Hans Sachs's house, with the cobbler seated, as above described, reading and dreaming. and repentant David, in disgrace for his escapade of last night, strives in vain to propitiate his master, who hardly seems to hear or heed his words. The "Prentice" motive is almost the sole material of this rather unnecessary scene, which is probably only inserted to heighten the effect of Hans Sachs's mag-The old man nificent monologue which follows. ponders over the ease with which all the world can be led astray, and the passions of men roused and turned in any desired direction-witness last night's brawl. No. 19 forms the groundwork for most of this, but at the words-

Old ways and customs keeping, How peacefully I see My dear old Nürnberg sleeping In midst of Germany—

the "Nüremberg" motive (No. 16) appears, improved by the following added counterpoint as a middle part, which henceforth always accompanies it:-



As he goes on to recall all the circumstances of the riot, No. 16 grows strangely agitated, and finally melts into the music of the end of the last act:-

'Twas like some impish spell. Some glowworm could not find his mate; 'Twas he stirred up this wrath and hate. The elder's charm—Midsummer Eve.

During these lines the "Eva" motive, high up on muted violins and harps, becomes a fairylike scherzo, giving tremendous force to the burst of full orchestra on the following line :-

But now, behold-Midsummer Day,

when the "St. John's Day" figure appears as in Pogner's speech, and continues to the end of the soliloquy in fine combination with the Nuremberg theme.

Walter then enters, and in reply to his host's greeting and inquiry mentions that he has had a

dictate it to him in the form of a song, but avoids giving his reasons. He defends the Masters against Walter's abuse, and explains their principles. music of this scene is founded chiefly on the "Poet. Walter" theme (No. 2), and a new phrase derived from No. 19a :-

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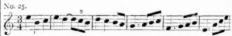
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A beautiful melody (bearing, however, an unfortunate resemblance to the well-known second subject of Nicolai's Overture to "The Merry Wives of Windsor") pervades Hans Sachs's defence of the Mastersingers :-



Walter is at last persuaded to narrate his vision which is certainly not more clear than the generality of dreams, being, in fact, a mere pile of poetic words to the effect that he thought himself in a lovely garden, where the tree of life, the muse of poetry the tree of fame, and Eva all got mixed up. cally speaking this song is a decided failure, but the music is all aglow with melody. The opening phrase is-



to which follows an altered version of No. 2. are two verses of this, and the third is on the love theme No. 4 (put in 3-4 time, of course), the whole forming a "bar" or "stave," according to the rules of the Mastersingers. Sachs makes Walter compose two such staves and wants a third, but Walter gets tired (like the audience) and refuses to go on. the old man, leaving the paper on which he has taken down the song upon his table, takes his guest into the next room to put on his best clothes and prepare for the Festival; for he has a deep-laid plan which he keeps to himself. A very curious scene follows. apparently introduced merely to give time for Sachs to dress: Beckmesser, not yet recovered from his last night's adventure, comes down the street at back and, seeing the workshop empty, comes in to rest and compose himself. He says not a word, but the orchestra follows the current of his thoughts in the most extraordinary fashion-his examination of his injuries, his reflections on his disgrace, the riot Sachs, Walter, Eva-his tumultous feelings bring all these before him in a chaotic flood, and however good or bad the actor may happen to be, it is impossible to mistake the meaning of the music during a scene of one hundred bars long. Casting his eyes around in search of Sachs (No. 19), they light on the paper containing Walter's song (No. 25), and a glance at this convinces him that Sachs has written it with a view to competing for Eva's hand himself, and this wondrous lovely dream. Sachs begs that he will is the reason of last night's trick. As this light

XUM

breaks in on him Sachs re-enters and Beckmesser taxes him with his perfidy, in a very harsh and ugly scene of which the "Marker" (No. 13), "Cobbler" (No. 14), and "Riot" (No. 21) motives form the material with one new comical phrase added :-

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Sachs, without denying the authorship of the poem, disclaims any intention of competing, and makes Bechmesser a present of the paper. This throws the Marker into an ecstasy of joy and gratitude, for his own song, having produced such dire results last night, must be abandoned, and he has no other. With a song by the great Sachs, who promises not to claim it as his own, he feels sure of the prize, and goes home in exuberant delight to commit it to memory. Sachs moralising over the deceit and badheartedness of Beckmesser, who to us certainly appears more of a fool than a rogue, is interrupted by a morning call from the fair Eva, in festal array. Something is wrong with her shoe, but she gives the most contradictory descriptions of what ails it. The "Eva" motive is here presented in a new and simpler guise :-



Sachs removes one of her shoes and pretends to do something to it, leaving Eva unable to move, with her shoeless foot on a stool, when he hears her utter a cry of astonishment and delight: Sir Walter has appeared at the chamber-door in all his splendid knightly array:-

ightly array:

Sachs. Aha! 'tis here! now the reason I know.

Child, you are right—'tis in the sole.

One moment and I'll make it whole.

Hark ye, child! I've given it much thought.

How my work should to an end be brought.

The best way's to join the contest for you,

I might win some renown as a poet too.

Come now, reply. You do not heed!

Your head's full of some one else indeed!

All right! You say: "Stick to your shoes!"

Will some one give us a song to amuse?

I heard to-day a lovely one:

Let's see if the third verse can be done.

Whereupon Walter is inspired with his third verse, at the end of which Suchs, still hiding his intense emotion beneath a mask of humour, restores Eva's shoe, asking her if it still pinches, with other quaint speeches. Eva, with an outburst of sincere feeling, blesses her old friend for his watchful kindness to her. and ends by assuring him that if she had any choice at all in the matter he should be her husband. To which Sachs replies drily :-

eplies drily:—
My child
Sir Tristan I have read of—
Isolde's story dark:
Hans Sachs has prudent dread of
The fate of poor King Mark.

And here, to our delight, we find the two most prominent themes from Wagner's opera on this subject presented to us :-



In a long and whimsical speech Sachs now declares that a new master-song has just been born, and that they must all solemnly christen it, for which purpose he calls in Magdalena and David as witnesses. christening hymn, No. 6, is the most prominent feature here. David is released from his apprenticeship (by the old custom of a box on the ear) and made a journeyman, that he may be a legal witness, and Eva is requested to make the christening speech. Here we have Wagner's solitary specimen-and a very lovely one it is-of a set concerted piece; a quintet in which all the parts are of equal importance and interest. The opening phrases-



which suggest the main subject of the "Siegfried Idyl"-form the principal material, combined with the first bars of the phrases of Waller's prize-song, Nos. 4 and 25. This quintet forms a fitting climax and end to the scene; the curtain shrouds the stage during a change (indeed the last scene is often made into a fourth act), and the orchestra occupies itself with the "Nuremberg" motive, No. 16a, until a trumpet-call, much used during this last scene—



is heard behind, when a torrent of different themes sets in, with the March, No. 1, as a bass, and soon afterwards we are shown an open meadow by the River Pegnitz, where the Mastersingers' Festival is just commencing. Several of the trades guilds march on, singing characteristic choruses-the Cobblers with No. 14, the Tailors with a well-known phrase from Rossini's "Tancredi" (in allusion to the story of how a tailor saved a besieged city by dressing up as a goat and capering on the walls).

Then boats come up the river, bringing girls from different villages of the neighbourhood, the Prentices join them, and a charming dance takes place. This is an old-fashioned waltz written entirely in periods of seven bars :-



It is interrupted by the approach of the Master-singers in procession with their banner and all their pomp to the strains of the Prelude Nos. 1 and 3. When all have entered and taken their places Eva is put in the seat of honour; and on the entry of Sachs, the darling of Nuremberg, the whole crowd bursts out into the exquisite choral which forms the Prelude to Act 3. As the shouts and cries of "Hail, Hans Sachs!" die away, the orchestra softly takes up No. 10, and the old cobbler rises, with much emotion, to express his thanks, saying :-

Your hearts you ease—mine you oppress: I feel my own unworthiness—

and then proceeds to recapitulate the substance of Pogner's address in First Act, telling, what we have already heard several times, what they have met together to do. The music of the "competition" reappears, with the addition of the "Nuremberg" motive, and altogether this speech is superfluous. Beckmesser, taking Sachs aside, assures him that the new song will drive him mad: he cannot learn it and it will not fit his old tune. Sachs encourages him, and the Marker advances to his trial. Seeing his confusion and grotesque nervousness the people jeer him in an odd chorus to the phrase No. 3b, while the Prentices are making a raised mound of turf to serve as a singer's seat. After much preparation he begins, but—whether from Sachs's bad writing or his own stupidity is not clear—he turns the words of the song into sheer nonsense. Thus what was in Walter's song-

Morning was gleaming with roseate light, The air was filled With scent distilled Where, beauty beaming Past all dreaming, garden did invite A garden and ... My raptured sight—

becomes with Beckmesser-

Yawning and steaming with roseate light, My hair was filled With scent distilled, My boots were beaming With no meaning, guard I did invite A guard I did nov... To strap me tight.

After three verses of this sort of thing the people from murmuring rise to peals of laughter and derision, driving the Marker into upbraiding Sachs for palming off upon him a piece of trash like this; and having thus diverted public attention to another quarter he escapes to hide his discomfiture. Sachs, in answer to the indignant queries of the Masters, simply declares that the song is far too beautiful to be his, and demands leave to prove it by calling a witness who alone can sing it correctly-showing himself its author. This is incredulously acceded to, and Walter steps forward; his gallant bearing creating at once a favourable impression. The Masters now smell a rat, but they consent to hear the young man, who now, instead of singing the song as it was in the previous scene, condenses it into one stave of three verses, each far more elaborate and artistic than the first version. The whole assembly is carried away by the originality and beauty of the song, and Walter is unanimously declared the winner of the prize, amid the acclamations of the multitude. They are about to invest him with the collar of masterhood, but he shrinks back, saying, as he embraces Eva:

Not Master—nay, I'll find reward some other way.

At this scarcely courteous rebuff, the Masters and people naturally look blank, but Sachs gently reproves him :-

> Disparage not the Masters' ways, But show respect to Art:
> All they can give of highest praise
> To you they here impart. Not through your ancestors and birth—
> Not by your weapons' strength and worth—
> But by a poet's brain,
> Which Mastership did gain, You have attained your present bliss. So think you thankfully on this: How can you e'er the Art despise Which can bestow so rare a prize?-

effect that Germany can never fall so long as she natural grace, that he had the gift of pleasing even

As the shouts and cries of "Hail, Hans honours her Masters and her Art, concluding thus:-

So heed my words—
Honour your German Masters,
If you would stay disasters;
For while they dwell in every heart,
Though should depart
The pride of holy Rome,
Still thrives at home Our sacred German Art.

And as the people repeat these lines in chorus, shouting "Hail, Sachs! Hail, Nuremberg's darling Sachs!" the curtain falls. The music of this scene, consisting entirely of old material-the Master. singers' and Nuremberg themes-needs no further

description.

It will be seen by this mere summary of the action and music that we have here a work of most uncommon calibre and scope. It taxes the resources of the largest opera-houses to their utmost, requiring a four or five-fold chorus, an unusual number of good singers for subordinate parts, an extensive stage, and an enormous orchestra. The music, as we have said before, is-both to the technical musician and the uncultured hearer-as fine as any other work of the master; it is in the poem that the weakness lies. Dialogue of the most prosaic, or at least unlyric, style is there to be found by the dozen pages at a time, and when the composer endeavours to soar-as in Walter's songs-his poetry is of anything but a high order. But this is only a fault which exists equally in the "Nibelung Ring," and goes a very small way towards weakening the gigantic power and grasp shown in every bar of music that Wagner writes. On the whole, this opera may rank as the composer's masterpiece, more popular than "Tristan," more practicable than the "Nibelungen" tetralogy, more beautiful than any.

THE GREAT COMPOSERS.

By JOSEPH BENNETT.

No. XI.-CHOPIN (continued from page 15).

In 1827, Chopin left the Warsaw Lyceum, and his parents, acting on the advice of friends, resolved to let him follow the bent of his own musical inclina-He was then eighteen years of age, and appears to have been a young man of considerable attractions, both in person and manner. Believing this, however, we need not accept, save with more than the proverbial grain of salt, George Sand's ecstatic word-portrait as we have it in her "Lucrezia Floriani." The illustrious novelist "gushed," as a matter of course, over the man who for some years was her hero, and her imagination ran riot when urged by devotion to make him, if possible, better than the angels :-

"He was delicate both in body and mind. Through the want of muscular development he retained a peculiar beauty, an exceptional physiognomy, which had, if we may venture so to speak, neither age nor sex. It was not the bold and masculine air of a descendant of a race of magnates who knew nothing but drinking, hunting, and making war; neither was it the effeminate loveliness of a cherub couleur de rose It was more like the ideal creations with which the poetry of the Middle Ages adorned the Christian temples—a beautiful angel, with a form pure and slight as a young god of Olympus, with a face like that of a majestic woman filled with a divine sorrow and, as the crown of all, an expression at the same time tender and severe, chaste and impassioned."

Of his manner we have a sketch from the same

rapturous pen:—
"He was externally so affectionate, his education and then he proceeds to make a long speech to the had been so finished, and he possessed so much

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where he was not personally known. His exceeding loveliness was immediately prepossessing; the delithe eyes of women; the full yet graceful cultivation of his mind, the sweet and captivating originality of his conversation, gained for him the attention of the most enlightened men. Men less highly cultirated liked him for his exquisite courtesy of manner. They were so much the more pleased with this because, in their simplicity, they never imagined it was the graceful fulfilment of a duty into which no real sympathy entered.'

If Madame Sand makes an angel of young Chopin, Liszt places him in a paradise. It is hard to say whether the novelist or the musician gushes the more copiously over their common friend. Chopin was naturally a favourite in the aristocratic salons of Warsaw, and upon this foundation Liszt builds an

elaborate dream-structure :

"In these meetings, which might almost be called assemblies of fairies, he may often have discovered, unveiled in the excitement of the dance, the secrets of enthusiastic and tender souls. He could easily read the hearts which were attracted to him by friendship and the grace of his youth, and thus was enabled early to learn of what a strange mixture of leaven and cream of roses, of gunpowder and tears of angels, the poetic ideal of his nation is formed. When his wandering fingers ran over the keys, suddenly touching some moving chords, he could see how the furtive tears coursed down the cheeks of the loving girl, or the young neglected wife; how they moistened the eyes of the young men, enamoured of and eager for glory. Can we not fancy some young beauty asking him to play a simple prelude, then, softened by the tones, leaning her rounded arms upon the instrument, to support her dreaming head, while she suffered the young artist to divine in the dewy glitter of her lustrous eyes the song sung by her youthful heart? Did not groups like sportive nymphs throng around him, and beg him for some waltz of giddying rapidity-smile upon him with such wildering joyousness, as to put him immediately in unison with the gay spirit of the dance? He saw there the chaste grace of his illustrious countrywomen dis-played in the mazurka, and the memories of their witching fascination, their winning reserve, were never effaced from his soul."

Leaving this region of romance for the more sober domain of fact, Chopin is found, in 1828, travelling to Berlin under the care of Professor Jarocki, who had been invited by Humboldt to attend a congress of naturalists in the Prussian capital. This was the young man's first plunge into the outer world, and the prospect of it might have been expected to excite him. It would appear, however, that though he described himself as a lunatic, not knowing what he was about, he could express himself in a very calm, matter-of-fact way. Writing to a friend (September

9, 1828), he said : +-

"I learn from a good authority in Berlin that I shall have an opportunity, through Lichtenstein, of becoming acquainted with all the best musicians in the Prussian capital, except Spontini, with whom he is not on good terms. . . . I only intend spending a fortnight with Jarocki, but this will give me an opportunity of, at any rate, hearing a good opera once, and so having an idea of a perfect performance, which is

worth a good deal of trouble.

A week later Chopin was in Berlin, and writing to his "dearly beloved parents and sisters." No one can read this letter ; without being strongly reminded of Mendelssohn's earlier epistles. It contains the same keen and humorous observation of men and things, is marked by the same affectionateness, the same vivacity, and the same subordination of all matters to the love of art. Some of his travelling companions the young man sketched in a few happy strokes :-

"Our travelling companions were a German lawyer, living at Posen, who tried to distinguish himself by making coarse jokes; and a very fat farmer with a smattering of politeness acquired by travelling. At the last stage before Frankfort-on-the-Oder a German Sappho entered the diligence and poured forth a torrent of ridiculous, egotistical complaints. Quite unwittingly, the good lady amused me immensely, for it was as good as a comedy, when she began to argue with the lawyer, who, instead of laughing at her, seriously controverted everything she said.'

As for the assembled naturalists, Chopin first drew merciless caricatures of them, and then avoided their company, for reasons suggested, perhaps, by the following extract concerning "Professor Lehmann, a

celebrated botanist from Hamburg":-

"I was astonished at the strength of his small fist; he broke with ease the large piece of white bread, to divide which I was fain to use both hands and knife. He leaned over the table to talk to Professor Jarocki, and in the excitement of the conversation, mistook his own plate and began to drum upon mine. A real savant, was he not? with a great, ungainly nose, too. All this time I was upon thorns, and as soon as he had finished with my plate, I wiped off the marks of his fingers with my serviette as fast as possible."

In another letter he gives us a glimpse of a great character, and shows something of the simplicity of

a youth unacquainted with courts:

"At the Singing Academy I observed the hand-some Princess von Liegnitz talking to a man in a kind of livery, whose face I could not clearly see; I asked my neighbour if he were a Royal valet de chambre, and received for a reply, 'Ay, that is his Excellency Baron von Humboldt.' You may imagine, my dear ones, how thankful I was that I had only uttered my question in a whisper; but I assure you that the chamberlain's uniform changes even the countenance, or I could not have failed to recognise the great traveller who has ascended the mighty Chimborazo."

One difference between the letters of the youthful Chopin and those of the youthful Mendelssohn-in most respects so much alike-is that the former touched but slightly upon musical matters from a critical point of view. Mendelssohn had a decided opinion, and expressed it about everything and everybody; whereas his Polish contemporary scarcely allows us to know what he thought. In the Berlin epistles he confesses that he was "quite carried away" by Handel's "St. Cecilia," which most nearly approached his ideal of sublime music. Against this one utterance must be placed his silence regarding "Fernand Cortez," "Il Matrimonio Segreto" and Onslow's "Der Hausirer," all of which he heard in the Prussian capital, and dismisses with the statement that he "greatly enjoyed" them. Here we encounter the first evidence of Chopin's modest spirit. He appears to have thought humbly of himself, and, with reference to a meeting of the Congress, says in the most natural way in the world, "Spontini, Zelter, and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy were also there; but I did not speak to any of them, as I did not think it proper to introduce myself."

 [&]quot;Life of Chopin," p. 152.
 Karasowski, vol. i., p. 45 et seq. † Karasowski, vol. i., p. 43.

^{*} Karasowski, vol. i., p. 51.

The travellers returned viâ Posen, and on their way to that city stopped to change horses at the little town of Züllichau. In the inn Chopin found a grand piano and began playing upon it, to such purpose that not only his fellow-travellers but all the people of the house gathered delightedly round. At the height of their enjoyment, the driver shouted, "The horses are ready," only to be called a "confounded disturber" for his pains. Chopin's audience would not let him go. Said the landlord, "Stay and play, noble young artist; I will give you courier's horses if you will only remain a little longer;" and when, at last, the start had to take place he carried Chopin in triumph to the diligence, while his wife and daughters loaded him with wine and cakes. After a short stay in Posen, the travellers resumed their journey, reaching Warsaw on October 6.

Chopin's father, pleased with the effect of the Berlin experience upon his son, resolved that he should next visit Vienna, and in view thereof urged him to entertain the idea of giving a concert in the imperial city. The young man's modesty rejected the proposition, though doubtless his ambition was fired as it never had been before. "Here I have been leniently judged by kind-hearted patriots," were his words; "but what am I to expect in a city which can boast of having heard a Haydn, a Mozart, and a Beethoven?" We find the same spirit in his first letter from the Austrian capital. No sooner had he been heard in the Vienna salons than society discovered a new musical lion. Chopin was pelted with compliments and overwhelmed with offers of assistance to the end of a public hearing. He could not under-

stand this: --

"Why, I do not know, but the people here are astonished at me, and I wonder at them for finding anything to wonder at in me. . . . The artists and lovers of music who know that I am here consider that Vienna would lose a great deal if I left without giving a concert. I do not know what to make of it all. . . . Haslinger thinks that the Viennese should hear me play my own compositions. Everybody protests that the newspapers will be sure to give me a flattering notice. Würfel is of opinion that, as my compositions are to appear now (Haslinger had undertaken to publish them), it would be advisable for me to give a concert, otherwise I should have to come again, but that the present would be the best time, as the Viennese are longing for something new. He calls it unpardonable in a young musician to neglect such an opportunity; I ought to appear in the twofold capacity of pianist and composer, and must not think too modestly of myself. . . . I do not yet know how it will be all arranged."

But he did know before sending off the letter, and added in a postscript, "I have made up my mind." Then, with a touch of pardonable vanity, "The journalists stare at me already, the members of the orchestra salute me quite obsequiously when I walk arm-in-arm with the director of the Italian Opera." Finally, he said, "I hope for God's gracious help.

Do not be anxious, my dearest ones.

The concert took place at the Imperial Opera on Tuesday, August 11, 1829, Chopin playing his Variations on "La ci darem" (Op. 2), and improvising a fantasia. A great success rewarded the venture. The applause was hearty, and approval general, the severest criticism being that of an old lady, who remarked, "A pity the youth has so little presence." Many judges, however, insisted that the new comer did not make noise enough—which judges, let us add, should be living now for the full gratification of their taste. On this Chopin observes!:—

"There is an almost unanimous opinion that I play too softly, or rather, too delicately for the public here. That is to say, they are accustomed to the drum-beating of their own piano virtuosi. I am afraid the newspapers will say the same thing, especially as the daughter of one of the editors drums dreadfully; but never mind: if it is to be so, I would much rather they said I played too gently than too roughly."

Chopin

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By the way, Chopin appears to have stood in great dread of the newspapers. In one letter he wrote: "If the newspapers cut me up so much that I shall not venture before the world again, I have resolved to become a house-painter; that would be as easy as anything else, and I should, at any rate, still be an artist." The most important journal did not, as it proved, take notice of the concert, but Chopin found plenty of consolation in the marked success of a second appearance, at which the only dissatisfied people were the "out-and-out Germans." "I have on my side," said Chopin, "the learned and those with poetic temperaments;" so, putting one thing with another, the young man felt very happy, and out of himself to such an extent that he sealed one of his letters with a waiter's seal, inscribed "Madeira," mistaking it for his own. This mood was no doubt intensified when its subject read in the journal just mentioned (Wiener Theater Zeitung) a favourable opinion of his playing: "This is a young man who knows how to please by entirely original means, His style differs totally from that of the ordinary concert-giver. . . . Herr Chopin to-day again received the most unanimous applause."

From Vienna Chopin went to Prague, where he would not play in public for fear of the criticism which had assailed even Paganini. Thence he journeyed to Dresden, and wrote home, saying, "I am merry and well." In the Bohemian capital aquaintance was made with Pixis amongst others, and at Dresden he saw Charles Devrient in Goethe's "Faust," which he calls "a fearful but magnificent conception." Altogether this memorable tour had a happy effect. The young man was in good health; found that with every additional experience of artistic life his powers became stronger; and felt the elation of discovering that he had under-estimated his claim to the honours of a virtuoso and composer. In the early part of September he returned to Warsaw; but the Polish city, though it remained the home of his family, could no longer be a home for him. He had, in a sense, tasted the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and was as the gods-no longer to be confined within limits that once bounded for him a sufficient world. Thus, he wrote to an intimate friend: "-

friend: "—
"You will learn from me by-and-by what I think
of doing this winter. In no case shall I remain in
Warsaw. Where fate will lead me I do not yet
know. Prince and Princess Radziwill have, in the
most polite manner, invited me to Berlin, and offered
me apartments in their palace, but of what use would
that be? I have begun so much work that it would
seem the wisest course to remain here. I have also
promised to return to Vienna, and a Vienna paper
openly declared that a sojourn in the imperial city
would be very advantageous to me, and have the best
influence on my career."

To crown all these developments the young man fell in love. In his "Life of Chopin," Liszt refers to an early affection and throws around it, after his manner, a good deal of romance and mystery.\(\dagger He does not mention the lady's name, but states that "the tempest which in one of its sudden gusts tore

^{*} Karasowski, vol i., p. 64.

[†] Ibid., vol. i., p. 70.

^{*} Karasowski, vol. i., p. 98. † "Life of Chopin," p. 149 et seq.

that I Chopin from his native soil, like a bird, dreamy and letters, as a genuinely attractive character. abstracted, surprised by the storm upon the branches public of a foreign tree, sundered the ties of this and robbed the exile of a faithful and devoted wife, the disinherited him of a country." The to the I am as well as disinherited him of a country." The roung girl, we are told, was "sweet and beautiful," , espe. drums and after the separation "she lived on, calm but would " remaining faithful to his memory, and devoting an too erself to his parents. She had painted his portrait, which the father of Chopin would never set aside for n great mother and better. "We saw," continues Liszt, the pale cheeks of this melancholy woman glow like wrote: I shall alabaster when a light shines through its snow many esolved rears afterwards, when, in gazing upon this picture, easy as be an here from personal knowledge, there must have been such a woman, but we do not recognise her at all in found Constantia Gladkowska, the dramatic singer, with s of a mom Chopin, at twenty, was beyond question mamoured. His love for Constantia seems to have been fervid. Thus, he writes:* atisfied I have those

"I have already, to my misfortune perhaps, found it ideal, which I sincerely and loyally worship. Half a year has passed without exchanging a syllable with her of whom I dream every night. While thinkng of this lovely being I composed the adagio in my new concerto (E minor, Op. 11), and, early this morning, the waltz which I send you. Notice the passage marked x: nobody knows of it but yourself.

He felt all a lover's longing for sympathy :-

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"Oh! how miserable it is to have no one to share our sorrows and joys, and when your heart is heavy have no soul to whom you can pour out your woes ou know very well what I mean. How often do I ommunicate to my piano all that I would confide to you!"

Following this are, in various letters, several reerences to the young lady's doings on the Warsaw stage, and there is scarcely room for doubt that her scinations kept Chopin at home longer than his ident desire for fresh artistic laurels would othervise have allowed. Meanwhile the father resolved hat Frederic should make, next time, a longer stay t with broad, and take a larger flight, and the son himself ent on a visit to Prince Radziwill at his country eat. Here he found a charming Princess, "who mows quite well that the value of a man does not epend on his descent," and three daughters, "ex-remely amiable, musical, and kind-hearted." More-Polish amily, wer, he found an opera, written by the Prince, on the subject of "Faust," and, curiously enough, foreasting changes that have since become notorious :to be

"He (the Prince) is a great admirer of Gluck. In he drama he only gives importance to music in so timate ar as it depicts the situation or the feelings; therebre the overture has no conclusion, but leads directly think othe introduction. The orchestra is always invisible. ot yet laced behind the stage, so as not to distract the attenin the ion by such externals as the conducting, the movenents of the musicians, &c."

Having returned to Warsaw, Chopin gave two immensely successful concerts before setting out on his e also ong journey, which sad event-for sad it was to him -took place on November 2, 1830. Having taken paper d city eave of his parents and sisters, he was accompanied e best by a circle of friends to the end of his first stage, there the final adieux were made, and a goblet filled man with his native earth was presented to him with an ers to oppopriate exhortation. Then the two parties went heir several ways, and one era in the life of Chopin er his losed. He

The youth Chopin is presented to us by his one uthoritative biographer, and by the evidence of his

point of home-love he rivalled even Mendelssohn, who, like himself, was the pet of a fond mother and worshipping sisters. All within the domestic circle were his "dear ones," and, while the passages of affection in his communications bear no mark of mere effusiveness, they are strong enough to show that his mouth spoke out of what was emphatically the abundance of the heart. Modesty, as we have already indicated, was another conspicuous feature in Chopin's character—one, moreover, that never deserted him. There is not the smallest reason to suppose that his expressed surprise at the reception he met with in Vienna was assumed. His words of astonishment were written for eyes long accustomed to look him through and through, and even had this not been the case, the whole tenor of the young man's character, as far as revealed to us, must be accepted in proof of sincerity. But the most remarkable point is an utter absence of anything calculated to form the basis of a morbid and mystic nature. Save for a certain reserve, due to a shrinking from self-assertion, Chopin was very much like other amiable young fellows of his age. As we have seen, he loved a little fun, had a quick eye for humorous situations, and enjoyed the good animal spirits that accompany a healthy body. Some of Karasowski's observations on these generally misconceived points are worth quoting. With regard to Chopin's social qualities we read:

"In a general way he was fond of pleasure, and delighted to share it with his parents, family, and friends. He never marred any one's enjoyment. If he were among company who wished to dance, he would sit down to the piano without being pressed, and play the most charming mazurkas and other dances. If a bad player were at the piano, he would politely and pleasantly put himself in his place."

On the score of health, Karasowski remarks, after

quoting Liszt and Madame Sand: +-

"Chopin neither looked like 'a beautiful angel," 'a majestic woman filled with a divine sorrow,' nor 'a young god from Olympus'; just as little did he imagine daily 'that the hour of his death was near.' On the contrary, his cheerful letters, pervaded with the joy of youth, showed that Frederic had as good health as any other young man of his age. . . . It was not until ten years later that he was threatened with the illness brought on by the excitement of Parisian life. And if Frederic had been sickly, would his parents have permitted their only, tenderly loved son to travel abroad? Would they have consented to an absence of two years—which followed the earlier journeys—if the young artist had been troubled with a dangerous malady? Only in the last years of his life his physical strength was often greatly exhausted, in consequence of the rapid strides of the disease which caused his early death. Chopin's playmate and schoolfellow, Wilhelm von Kolberg, who is still living in Warsaw, affirms that till manhood, Chopin was only ill once and then from a cold. It is true that, after the manner of loving and womanly hearts, mother and sisters very much petted their dear Frederic. There was no lack of exhortations to 'wrap up carefully in cold, damp weather'; he laughed good-humouredly at the instructions, but followed them like an obedient

This surely disposes once for all of the fanciful structures erected upon the hypothesis of Chopin's abnormal youth.

An important reflection, looking back upon the Polish musician's early years, has to do with the

^{*} Karasowski, vol. i., p. 99

[·] Karasowski, vol. i., p. 91.

[†] Ibid., vol. i., p. 90.

spontaneous and individual character of his genius. Chopin could have heard but little music in Warsaw, during those troublous times, save such as Warsaw made for itself, and it is strange that hardly anything is said of him or by him as to the extent of his acquaintance with the works of other men. Mozart he loved and reverenced, yielding perhaps to an instinct of fellow-feeling; but whatever the degree of his knowledge of the masters, it is certain that it had no influence upon even his earliest works. In this Chopin differed from most other composers, the greatest of whom had a model before following the bent of his own fancy. The Polish composer's youthful compositions are indeed the most Chopinesque of all he did. They show a perfectly independent mind, and not only that, but a method of treating the pianoforte entirely distinct from any other. Hence the sensation made by them at the outset, and so vividly described by Schumann in the first of his "Davidbündsler" papers:

"With the words, Off with your hats, gentlemen -a genius!' Eusebius laid down a piece of music. We were not allowed to see the title-page. . . . But here it seemed as if eyes, strange to me, were glancing up at me-flower eyes, basilisk eyes, peacock's eyes, maiden's eyes; in many places it looked yet brighter-I thought I saw Mozart's 'La ci darem wound through a hundred chords, Leporello seemed to wink at me, and Don Juan hurried past in his white mantle. . . Florestan concluded by saying that he had never experienced feelings similar to those awakened by this finale, except in Switzerland.
... 'Dear Florestan,' I answered, ... 'as deeply as yourself I bend before Chopin's spontaneous genius, his lofty aim, his mastership.'"

Finally, on the subject of Chopin's youthful art, let us quote a passage from an essay on his works written many years ago, when the master was almost

unknown here, by Mr. J. W. Davison:-

"Commonplace is instinctively avoided in all the works of Chopin-a stale cadence or a trite progression-a humdrum subject or a worn-out passage -a vulgar twist of the melody or a hackneyed sequence—a meagre harmony or an unskilful counter-point—may in vain be looked for throughout the entire range of his compositions, the prevailing characteristics of which are a feeling as uncommon as beautiful; a treatment as original as felicitous; a melody and a harmony as new, fresh, vigorous, and striking as they are utterly unexpected and out of the original track. In taking up one of the works of Chopin you are entering, as it were, a fairyland untrodden by human footsteps—a path hitherto unfrequented but by the great composer himself.'

These words apply to the Warsaw compositions as much as to any other, and they help us to see how, from the first, Chopin lived, moved, and had his

being in a world of his own.

(To be continued.)

SCOTT AND PURCELL.

BY JULIAN MARSHALL.

A LETTER of Sir Walter Scott has recently come to light which has a peculiar interest for those who revere the name of our great English composer. It is addressed to Mrs. Ellis, the wife of George Ellis, an eminent antiquary, with whom Scott had been brought into contact and correspondence while editing his "Border Minstrelsy." Many letters from Scott to Ellis are printed in Lockhart's "Life" of the poet. The present letter is dated Edinburgh,

. "Music and Musicians," vol. i., p. 4 et seq.

December 16, 1806, and seems to have been written at a time when Mr. Ellis was recovering from an illness, and in answer to a letter from Mrs. Ellis which gave an account of her husband's progress towards health. Scott, in replying, wrote a chatty, agreeable epistle, touching on some topics of private. and some of public, interest; among these, Heber's disappointment "in the object of his ambition; but, as he had all Christ Church against him, it could not, I suppose, be well expected that he should succeed; and again, "We have a report here that the Princess of Wales's affair will be brought on in Parliament. Good God! how thick her distresses have come upon

Then comes the following passage: "You will be surprised, my dear Mrs. E., when I, of all the world, ask after a musical collection. But at present I am very curious to see the dedication of Henry Purcell's musical collection, entitled "Orpheus Britannicus," published by that great composer's widow about two years after his death, and dedicated to Lady Howard, If this old music-book happen to be in your collection, or in that of any of your friends, a copy of the dedication, which I take to be very short, would be a great favour to your friend. I cannot find the book in Edinborough,"

Scott suggests that his correspondent would "be surprised when he, of all the world, asked after a musical collection," because he was well known to be nearly devoid of musical taste. He says, in another letter, addressed to Clarke-Whitfeld, of Cambridge, who had set some of his verses to music: "I am no musician. . . . I have a wretched ear myself. . . This circumstance is the more provoking as I believe no man in Britain had more songs of all kinds by heart than I once could have mustered, . . . though I am not capable of whistling a tune myself."

It was, therefore, no matter of purely musical interest that could have led him to wish to see the dedication of the "Orpheus Brittannicus." His

object, however, is not far to seek.

In 1806 he was busy editing the works of Dryden. While so employed, he had his attention naturally directed to the dedication in question by a statement, made both by Burney and Hawkins, on which he remarks, in a note, as follows: "The 'Orpheus Britannicus' being inscribed by the widow to the Hon. Lady Howard, both Sir John Hawkins and Dr. Burney have been led into a mistake in supposing that the person so named was no other than Lady Elizabeth Dryden, our author's [Dryden's] wife. Mr. Malone has detected this error; and indeed the high compliments paid by the dedicator to Mr. Purcell's patroness as an exquisite musician, a person of extensive influence, and one whose munificence had covered the remains of Purcell with 'a fair monument,' are irreconcilable with the character, situation and pecuniary circumstances of Lady Elizabeth Dryden. The Lady Howard of the dedication must unquestionably have been the wife of the Hon. Sir Robert Howard; whence it follows that the 'honourable gentleman who had the dearest and most deserved relation to her, and whose excellent compositions were the subject of Purcell's last and best performances in music,' was not our author, as has been erroneously supposed, but his brother-in-law the said Sir Robert Howard, who continued to the last to be an occasional author, and to contribute songs to the dramatic performances of the day."

It is difficult to understand how Burney and Hawkins could have fallen into this blunder, but the fact that both of them did so is indisputable. In no circumstances could the Lady Elizabeth Dryden have been addressed as "The Honourable Lady Howard,"-least of all, after her marriage; and she

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had in 1692, when he can scarcely be supposed to have been much less than seventy years of age, married Mrs. Dives, who was one of the maids of honour to Queen Mary. He lived six years after this, and died on September 3, 1698, soon after the dedication to his wife of Purcell's "Orpheus."

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The point is a small one, and has been passed over by the biographer of Purcell in "Grove's Dictionary, though that writer correctly ascribes the monument in Westminster Abbey to the liberality of Sir R. Howard's wife, the pupil of the deceased composer. But it has not been hitherto noticed that the only grounds, which Mr. Husk justly calls " insufficient, for the attribution of Purcell's epitaph to the pen of Dryden are to be found in the mistaken supposition that the "Orpheus Britannicus" was inscribed to Dryden's wife, and that the monumental tablet was erected by her pious care and munificence, whereas the honour of the one and all the credit of the other are due to the wife of Sir R. Howard.

There is yet another point which arises in reading this dedication, and is not so easily cleared up. It lies in the remark that the "excellent compositions" of Lady Howard's husband "were the subject of his [Purcell's] last and best performance in music. Now it is well known that the last song set by Henry Purcell, "it being in his sickness," was the beautiful "From rosie bow'rs," undoubtedly written by Tom D'Urfey, and sung in the third part of his comedy of "Don Quixote." It is not likely that Howard contributed songs to the plays of D'Urfey, who was himself quite capable of writing his own, such as they were; and this particular song is claimed by that eccentric poet. But it is, of course, very possible that Scott may have been right in saying that Howard "continued to the last to be an occasional author, and to contribute songs to the dramatic performances of the day," though he is not supported in that statement by the "Biographia Dramatica," nor by Langbaine, who names none of Howard's works with a later date than 1665. In that year he wrote the "Indian Queen," and Purcell composed music for that play in 1692, three years before his

It is perhaps to this composition that his widow alludes in her dedication; but it was very far from being his last "performance in music."

THE HYMN OF CHAUCER'S OXFORD CLERK, "ANGELUS AD VIRGINEM."

THE readers of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" will well remember his description of the poor Oxford scholar, Nicolas, and of his lodging, where-

. . . al above ther lay a gay sawtrye [Psaltery] On which he made, a-nightès, melodye So swetèley, that al the chamber rang; And Angelus ad Virginem he sang. And, after that, he sang The Kinge's note: Full often blissed was his mery throte.

The "Angelus ad Virginem" was one of the Anglo-Latin Hymns of the Annunciation, a copy of which has been recently found, with an English version underneath it, of a date about a hundred years before "The Canterbury Tales" were written. Chaucer died in 1400, and the date of the manuscript is from 1250 to 1260. It was unknown to Sir John Hawkins because, when he was writing his "History of Music," the manuscript was in the library of the Royal Society. It came from Norfolk, and was bequeathed to the Royal Society by one of the Norfolk branch of the Howards, together with many manuscripts and books on different branches of science. About the commencement of the present

had been married since 1665. Sir Robert Howard century such of those manuscripts as were found to be useless in a library devoted to science were transferred by the Royal Society to the British Museum, and this manuscript was then classed with the Arundel Collection and numbered 248. is described in the printed catalogue of that collection, but many of the articles included in it are of later date than the musical portion, which occupies only a few leaves. Since the manuscript was thrown open to the antiquarian readers in the British Museum, the hymn was perhaps first noted down and copied by Mr. Henry Bradshaw, F.S.A., Librarian of the University of Cambridge, for a collection which he then contemplated. This was about twelve years ago; but quite recently Mr. Coombes drew the attention of Mr. F. J. Furnivall, the Director of the Chaucer Society, and of several other literary antiquarian societies, to the hymn, and he had a photograph taken of the page, and kindly gave a copy to the writer of this notice. The music is written in timeless notes, but so exactly over the words, that there is no difficulty in barring the notes by the metre of the verse. This was the course universally metre of the verse. adopted before music had notes of definite duration in proportion to others. We see the timebeaters repreented on the paintings of ancient Egypt. Greeks and Romans had their Coryphœus, and as music had no time-marks, it could only be the metres of the verses that they were beating, or that of a well-known tune which had become familiar to the ears by a similar process. It is, therefore, thus presented to the reader.

> One peculiarity of the writing should be notedthat where the accent falls upon a long vowel, two notes are placed close together, as if the singer were to iterate the note. This manner of singing seems to have been the precursor of the comparatively modern tremolo, now so much employed by singers.

> The manuscript is an important one in the history of music, because it was written within about twenty years of the Harleian manuscript which contains "Sumer is icumen in," and, like it, contains some pieces in two and in three parts. Having recently pointed out these to Mr. W. H. Cummings, he has kindly undertaken to score them in modern notes. The Latin words of the thirteenth century are by far more intelligible than the English, but, even these are occasionally difficult to read, on account of the excessive minuteness of the writing, and the abbreviations; as if parchment had been very scarce and difficult to procure.

> There are five stanzas in the Latin and five in the English version, of which the latter, if not both, will be printed literatim by the Early English Text Society. It may therefore suffice here to publish the first stanza of the English text, somewhat modified to make it intelligible to modern readers :-

Gabriel fram [h] evene ['s] king sent to the maid [en] swete, brou [gh] te hir blisful tiding and faire he 'gan hir grete': Heil be thu, ful of grace ari [ght] ! for Godes sone this [h] evene light for mannes loven wil man bicomen, and taken fles[h] of the maiden bri[gh]t, mank [ind] fre for to make of sinne and devil's mi[gh]t.





THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

WE are given to understand that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales intends, in the course of the month, to hold a meeting of representative persons from the counties and important towns of the king-dom, at which he will expound his scheme for a Royal College of Music, and will elicit the feeling of his audience on the subject, and their disposition to support it with the money necessary for carrying out the project. On this latter head, without being over-sanguine, we do not feel much anxiety. The Prince of Wales has shown, in the recent Paris Exhibition and elsewhere, so rare a union of practical ability, tact, and judgment, that there is probably no one in the country in whom greater confidence would be placed as leader of any scheme that he may bring forward. Add to this his unique position, and the immense force of British loyalty, and it may be taken for granted that when the Prince lays a well-considered scheme before such an assembly as that proposed to be called together, it will be adopted by them. Seeing that his Royal Highness is Chairman of the Commissioners for 1851, it is natural to suppose that the locality of the College will be on their land, and in connection more or less close with the Albert Hall. On this point, however, we know nothing, and are not anxious. We are content to leave the question of ways and means alone, in the belief that there will be no great difficulty in its solution. we are anxious about is that an Institution shall be founded which shall act as the recognised and authorised focus for the various and widespread streams and currents of energy with which music is now inspiring the educated classes throughout the country. We want a place which shall put a thorough and systematic education in music within the reach of all who can show themselves worthy of it, and shall give that direction and assistance to individual and struggling talent that Universities, Colleges, Conservatoires, Instituts, Academies are recognised as affording in all civilised countries, and in all branches of learning. Such a College will have all the advantage which our existing Academies and Schools possess, and it will possess in addition the strength and power due to the prestige, the position, and the ample funds which no private concern, however good, can command. Its effect cannot fail to be highly beneficial. Look at the immense list of large works composed in England in the last fifty years-oratorios, cantatas, operas, symphonies, &c .- a few successful, a large number unsuccessful, but all, good and bad, testifying to a prodigious and unsuspected amount of ability and energy. Can any one doubt that if the authors of these works, instead of getting taught how they could and where they could, and struggling on, often in a very imperfect manner, had been able to profit by the systematic education and the thousand good influences, direct and indirect, of a central College, the result would not have been much better for themselves and the country? It is often said that the great creative geniuses are not produced by academies, and the answer is obvious and as trite as the question. The answer is that they are great

creative geniuses. But the fact that Burns and Byron, Beethoven and Rossini, Reynolds and Turner, were not taught in academies, but made their own way for themselves, must not blind us to the equally self-evident fact that the mass of their followers cannot make their own way, but want help, every help they can get. No one but a fanatic will deny that the Royal Academy, the Royal Society, the South Kensington Department of Science and Art, the Institut at Paris, &c., have done and are doing an immense service to the great army of workers in painting, science, and literature in our own and the continental countries. Why should not music in England receive similar assistance? The prospect should animate all lovers of the great are

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We entertain no fear that the new College will supersede or absorb existing institutions. There is room for all. Our musical academies and schools were never more prosperous or doing better work than they now are. It is their very activity, as a leading sign of the increased general interest in music, that supplies a strong argument for the foundation of a new institution on a wide and thoroughly national basis. We feel confident that the Prince of Wales may count on the hearty support of all the musicians of the metropolis, including those most actively engaged in instruction.

WHATEVER may be our own opinion upon the effect of Messrs. Moody and Sankey's mission to this country, and the eccentric doings of the band of fanatics known as the "Salvation Army," we should certainly not bring such matters before the readers of this journal were we not convinced that by pressing music into their service they are not only degrading the art, but doing their utmost to persuade the multitude into accepting their commonplace ditties in lieu of the pure and heavenly compositions of the great writers in sacred music. We have before alluded to this subject, and should not again do so were we not supported in our convictions by the Bishop of Manchester, who most emphatically assures us that he does not think the visit of Messrs. Moody and Sankey is likely to be attended by good results. When he reads, he says, of excited meetings "where people cried out in an hysterical way, and grovelled on the ground, shedding hatfuls of tears," he feared that the excitement would pass away almost as rapidly as it was produced. "Where," he asked, "were now the tens of thousands who six years ago rushed to hear the earnest American evangelists, Moody and Sankey, at Manchester?" But if the singing at these meetings is scarcely in accordance with the Bishop's idea of truly religious devotion, what would he say to the services of the "Salvation Army," where, as an eye-witness recently tells us, "an energetic individual announced a hymn, in singing which he took the lead with remarkable gusto, throwing out his arms, emphasising particular words by interspersing the verses with impromptu Te Deums and Hallelujahs." And then, he says, a "popular air" was occasionally started. the "changes being rung with various lively tunes."
When we add that the preachings of the "Army" are enforced by the fantastic scrapings of the "Hallelujah Fiddler," the exciting nature of the proceedings may fairly be imagined. It is almost unnecessary to repeat our assertion that such music does harm to the advance of the higher forms of the art; and as we have the authority of the Bishop of Manchester for asserting that it also does harm to the higher forms of Christian worship, it would be difficult indeed to say what good can be effected by the presence of these evangelists in our midst.

XUM

THE recent establishment of "Smoking Concerts' in the metropolis is scarcely so much a proof of the advance of smoking as of the advance of music. The fact is that many persons accustomed to enjoy a cigar or pipe in the evening, and also exceedingly fond of listening to the performance of good works, have begun to see that the gratification of the one desire need not interfere with the occasional gratification of the other, and the result is the growth of the entertainments at one of which a few evenings ago we "assisted." Of course with a full orchestra, and a programme containing some of the best of our standard compositions, not only the total absence of ladies, but the arrangement of tables intermingled with seats, appeared strange to one accustomed to attend evening concerts at St. James's Hall; but then the stiffness inseparable from fashionable assemblies was replaced by an air of luxurious enjoyment which appeared thoroughly in consonance with the feelings of the audience; and when the performance commenced the few who desired to converse were effectually hushed by the frowning looks of the musical majority. can confidently affirm that the characteristic feature of the concert was faithfully preserved, for not only the audience smoked, but the Conductor, the stringed instrument players, and the performers upon wind instruments too, whenever they could get a chance. It was remarked by many that Beethoven sounded much better when, instead of sitting between two elegantly dressed ladies in a sofa stall, you could recline at your ease, and combine the aroma of the music with the fragrance of the weed. Upon this observation we make no comment. At all events the music was excellently played and heartily appreciated by several who would not have heard a note of it had they been debarred from their usual evening relaxation. It is true that we heard one dissenter observe that he should enjoy a Smoking Concert very much if it were not for the smoking; but then why, it may be reasonably asked, had he come there?

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ALTHOUGH our opinion is often asked with the object of settling local musical disputes, it is seldom that we comply with the request, partly because the matter can scarcely be of interest to our general readers, and partly because we can rarely be placed sufficiently in possession of the facts on both sides of the question to give a conscientious verdict. A correspondence lately forwarded to us for comment, however, makes us deviate from our usual course, because the subject seems of public importance. It appears that at a concert at Aberdeen Herr Reiter, the Conductor, in a part-song by Professor Macfarren, altered some notes which he considered to be "harsh" and that a critic in the Aberdeen Journal, who mentioned this fact, had been so annoyed by "verbal messages" respecting his notice, that he wrote to the composer, who of course declared the printed copy to be correct, and thus tacitly reproved the Conductor who had tampered with it. Then came a paper war in the Aberdeen Journal, many correspondents declaring that it was Herr Reiter's place to conduct, and not to criticise, the compositions under his direction; and that Professor Macfarren's ripened talent had earned for himself a place too high for his technical knowledge to be called into question. Now we perfectly know the harmony in dispute, and should be prepared, if necessary, to defend it. But this is beside the question: as a matter of principle, we deny that a Conductor has any right to alter a composition. If he does not like it, or his choir cannot sing it, he should not select it for performance. In proProfessor Macfarren has written certain notes, and Herr Reiter can only be justly blamed if his choir sings them incorrectly.

In the course of our remarks upon the decay of Italian Opera we have often called attention to the fact of so few of our most eminent lyrical vocalists being Italians. We are indebted, however, to our contemporary the Standard for furnishing us with a list of those who, although appearing during the fashionable season at our two Italian Opera houses, are really natives of almost every musical country except Italy. Madame Patti is an American, of Spanish extraction; Madame Albani is a Canadian; Madame Sembrich is a Pole; Madame Fürsch-Madier is a German; Madame Valleria, American; Madame Trebelli and Mdlle. De Reszké, French; Señor Gayarré, Spanish; Signor Mierzwinski, a Pole; Herr Labatt, German; MM. Faure, Maurel, Verguet, Nicolini, Soulacroix, and Lasalle, French. Granting, then, that when purely Italian operas are given, those to whom the language is foreign, although able to sing the notes, must pronounce the words imperfectly, what possible reason can there be, when so many nationalities are represented in a lyrical company, for translating every opera into Italian? With a number of German vocalists accustomed to sing the music in the language to which it was composed, why should not a German Opera be performed in German? With French artists imbued with the characteristics of the school, why not play a French Opera in French? Surely those who were not born in Germany or France could quite as easily study the language of those countries as that of Italy. It is true that these questions are now practically answered by the visit of a German company to England, and this may very probably be followed by a company from France; but in the interest of the lessees to whom the lyrical drama in this country has been so long intrusted, we should have been glad if they could have foreseen and prepared for this decline in the taste for Italian Opera before it was too late.

THE vagaries of German taste are sometimes astonishing. On the 17th ult. there appeared in the programme of the sixth Euterpe Concert at Leipzig a "Prelude and Fugue by J. S. Bach, set for orchestra, with a Choral, by Abert." It will hardly be believed that this consisted of, first, the Prelude to the great C sharp minor Fugue in the first part of the "Wohltemperirte Clavier"; secondly, a brand-new choral played exclusively by wind instruments of the brazen class, with an intolerable noise of trombones; and, thirdly, the famous Organ Fugue in G minor, the "Giant," so well known to all organists, in the midst of which reappeared the new-fangled Choral, blared forth by the aforesaid trombones so as entirely to ruin the effect of the incomparable Fugue. questions are suggested by this ill-favoured production, neither of them complimentary to the Leipzig public. On the one hand, is it necessary to dress up the works of Bach, and blend a pathetic piano-prelude with a jocund organ-fugue, in order to commend them to the taste of the day? Or can the concertmanagers rely on so complete an ignorance of the great Leipzig master, that they can play their "fan-tastic tricks" without risk of exposure, and careless of making "the angels weep"? It was far otherwise a generation ago, when Mendelssohn and Schumann swayed the musical sceptre there.

he should not select it for performance. In pronouncing judgment upon the merits of this controversy, therefore, we have nothing to do with the artistic positions of either the composer or the Conductor. Neue Welt," or "End of the World—Judgment—

New World." In The Times of the 24th ult., under the heading of "Miscellaneous Foreign News," it is stated that a new Oratorio has been produced at Weimar "by Joachim Kapp, entitled Weltende Gericht, Neue Welt (The Last Judgment and Paradise)." For the information of our readers, who might imagine that these are two distinct works by different composers, we may mention that the quotation from our contemporary is a free rendering of the fact alluded to by ourselves.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

MR. CARL ROSA commenced his season of operatic performances in English on the 14th ult, before an overflowing audience. Wagner's "Lohengrin," although no novelty in the répertoire of this company, was well chosen to inaugurate the season, for not only are all the parts admirably fitted for the artists engaged at this establishment, but it has been so carefully prepared as to make the performance one of unusual excellence, even to those accustomed to hear the greatest vocalists in one or two of the principal characters. Miss Julia Gaylord's Elsa has lost none of its charm histrionically, but her voice shows signs of wear; and, much as we should miss her from the cast of the operas with which she has been so long associated, occasional rest should be absolutely insisted upon by all interested in her career. Herr Schott has to struggle against his foreign accent, and is scarcely perhaps the ideal Lohengrin that Elsa might be pre sumed to see in her vision; but he sings well, especially in the declamatory parts, and has evidently much improved since he last appeared here. The Ortrud and Telramund of Miss Josephine Yorke and Mr. Ludwig deserve special commendation; and Mr. Henry Pope as King Henry, and Mr. Leslie Crotty in the difficult, but somewhat thankless, part of the Herald, were thoroughly satisfactory. The orchestra was excellent, thoroughly satisfactory. The orchestra was excellent, but the choir scarcely realised the dramatic effect of the important choruses with which the opera abounds, and in many parts the intonation was faulty. The "Flying Dutchman," played on the second night of the season, gave Madame Alwina Valleria an opportunity of proving, as the heroine, the possession of more real dramatic power than many, perhaps, may have credited her with; and her singing—especially in her great duet on first meeting with the Dutchman-created an effect as enthusiastic as it was thoroughly merited. Both as a singer and an actor Mr. Ludwig achieved a perfect triumph in the part of the Dutchman, his first scene indeed eliciting a storm of approbation which could scarcely be controlled; and in the duet already alluded to he exercised as potent a spell over the audience as over the woman who devotes her life to his service. Miss Josephine Yorke, in the comparatively small part of Mary, was everything that could be desired; and the same praise may be awarded to the Eric of Mr. F. C. Packard, the Steersman of Mr. J. W. Turner, and the Daland of Mr. H. D'Egville. The opera was mounted with the minutest care, the ship indeed being a marvel of mechanical skill; and the whole stage arrangement, as well as the scenery, evidencing a laudable desire on the part of the management to give a perfect realisation of the Wagnerian theories respecting the lyrical drama. The choruses were on the whole well rendered; and Signor Randegger, who conducted both the Operas under notice, showed unfailing skill and judgment in the discharge of his arduous duties. Wallace's "Maritana," Ambroise Thomas's "Mignon," and Balfe's "Bohemian Girl," have also been performed with much success. As Frederic, in "Mignon," Miss La Rue strengthened materially the favourable impression created a few nights previously on her debut in the small part of Lazarillo in "Maritana"; and we must also chronicle the warm reception accorded to Mr. Barton McGuckin, who made his first appearance on the stage in the character of Wilhelm Meister, in "Mignon," and, in addition to his well-known qualifications as a vocalist, displayed powers as an actor which will doubtless ripen by experience. A repetition of the "Bohemian Girl," on the 25th ult., introduced Mr. B. Davies in the part of *Thaddeus*. He has an excellent voice,

and was warmly and most deservedly applauded in his principal songs. His method of vocalisation is extremely good, and he displays an aptitude for stage business which warrants us in believing that he will prove a valuable acquisition to the company. It must be mentioned that Mr. Pew has occasionally replaced Signor Randegger as Conductor with much success. Balfe's Opera "The Painter of Antwerp" was announced for production too late for notice in our present number.

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MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

No time has been lost in recommencing for the new year these truly popular Concerts, the first of which took place on the 2nd ult, when Mdlle. Marie Krebs made her first appearance this season at the pianoforte. Mdlle. Krebs having periodically appeared before the English public ever since she was a mere child, her reception on this occasion was, as usual, of that warm and cordial description which we reserve for tried and valued friends; and, albeit no very perceptible progress may be traced of late years in the lady's artistic development, her graceful and brilliant execution will always ensure her the continuance of the popularity she has earned. The Concert opened with Beethoven's Quartet in A major, Op. 18, No. 5, an old favourite at this institution, and capitally rendered by MM. Hollander, Ries, Zerbini, and Piatti. The same composer's Sonata in E flat, Op. 31, No. 3, was the much-applauded solo perform. ance by the pianist of the evening, who also, later in the programme, played, in conjunction with Signor Piatti, Chopin's Polonaise Brillante in C major, Op. 3, for pianoforte and violoncello: a not very remarkable production of one of the most remarkable composers of modern days. The Pianoforte Quintet in C minor, Op. 44, by the late Hermann Goetz, was likewise included in the evening's proceedings, and received a very fine interpretation at the hands of Mdlle. Krebs, MM. Holländer, Zerbini, Piatti, and White (who had replaced Mr. Reynolds at the contrabass). We have before had occasion to speak of this interesting and musicianlike specimen of modern chamber music, one of the few of this class which the gifted composer of "The Taming of the Shrew" produced. Mr. Lloyd was the vocalist, and gave in excellent style songs by Schubert and Blumenthal, to Mr. Zerbini's able accompaniment.

At the second Concert (on the 9th ult.), Mozart's bright and genial Quintet in E flat for two violins, two violas, and violoncello, stood at the head of the programme, and was played in the true spirit in which the prolific master conceived it by MM. Straus, Ries, Hollander, Zerbini, and Piatti. Mdlle. Krebs was again the pianist, and in an Allegro, Allegretto, and Presto by Scarlatti exhibited to the best advantage those specific qualities which we assigned to her at the commencement of these notices. The call for an encore (inevitable, as it seems, at these Concerts) which followed was responded to by the lady playing an additional piece. Signor Piatti's noble tone and masterly technique were again most conspicuous in Beethoven's Sonata in G minor, Op. 5, No. 2, for pianoforte and violoncello, in the rendering of which he was joined by Mdlle. Krebs, who also played the pianoforte part in Schumann's Quartet in E flat, Op. 47, assisted by MM. Straus, Hollander, and Piatti. This charming work, displaying all the best characteristics of Schumann's individuality, has now justly become one of the established favourites with the audience here, and as such requires no further comment on our part, beyond stating the fact that its execution on this occasion was such as in every way to deserve the enthusiastic applause with which it was greeted. Mrs. Hutchinson's sympathetic voice and excel-lent training were displayed to advantage in an air by Hummel (a rara avis this name of an excellent composer in modern concert programmes!), "L'ombrosa notte vien," and Molique's song, "O sweet lute," the latter with a viola obbligato, played in masterly manner by Herr Holländer.

On the third Monday of the series (the 16th ult.) Brahms's String Quartet in A minor, Op. 51, No. 2, which was first introduced here at the opening Concert of the present season, was repeated, and fully confirmed the favourable impression it produced on the former occasion.

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To say that the quartet is throughout elaborated in a masterly manner is in the case of Brahms stating a matter of course. Not so the fact that there is, if not a total absence from, at least no very conspicuous tendency towards diffuseness in this work, an element which, in fact, enters very largely more especially into the later produc-tions of this, as indeed of many other composers of the modern German school. Herr Brahms has something very interesting to say in each of the four movements of which the work is composed, and says it exceedingly well. The Quartet in A minor moves with perfect ease and freedom in recognised forms, bearing, however, a distinctly individual stamp, both in general conception and modes of expression, and works up to a spirited climax in the final Allegro, which, although the least elaborate of the movements, is for that reason also most easily comprehended, and calculated to decide the success of the work at a first hearing. It will doubtless become one of the stock-pieces at the Popular Concerts. MM. Straus, Ries, Zerbini, and Piatti were again, as on the previous occasion, the worthy interpreters. Mr. Charles Hallé was the pianist, and gave, with that perfect lucidity of exposition by which his performances are invariably characterised, Schubert's Sonata in B flat major; being also associated with MM. Straus and Piatti in Beethoven's Pianoforte Trio in E flat, Op. 70, No. 2 (of which the present was the eighteenth performance), and, at the conclusion of the evening, with the eminent violinist just named, in the exquisite rendering of three of the Pensées Fugitives by Heller and Ernst, which certainly deserve to be more frequently heard than has of late years been the case. Madame Fassett was very successful in declaiming a canzone, "Ritornerai fra poco," by Hasse, and Sullivan's plaintive song, "The Willow."

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Johans Svendsen's Ottet in A major was an interesting novelty introduced at the fourth Concert (the agrd ult.), and created a most favourable impression. There is a freshness—the freshness of youth—in this early production of the Swedish composer, a protest against conventionalities, an exuberant assertion of the national element, which at once captivate the listener and atone for a great deal of incoherence, undeveloped ideas, and diffuseness likewise apparent in the work. Beautiful melodic phrases, mostly of a national colouring, abound throughout the four movements, raising expectations of further elaboration, which, however, in most instances, and conspicuously so in the Andante sostenuto, are disappointed. The Scherzo is undoubtedly the most original of the movements, and at the same time the most consistent in the use of and at the same time the most consistent in the use of what is evidently a popular Swedish dance-tune; it was most vigorously applauded, and, if the listeners had had their way, would have been repeated, a disposition which was wisely ignored by the executants, MM. Straus, Ries, Wiener, Gibson, Holländer, Zerbini, Pezze, and Piatti. A repetition of the Ottet of Herr Svendsen—with whose Symphony and Norwegian Rhapsodies London audiences are already familiar-will doubtless soon take place, judging by the highly favourable reception it met with on this Mdlle. Krebs contributed two of Mendelssohn's occasion. "Lieder ohne Worte," and the Con moto in A major by the same composer, and in response to an encore added another of the "Lieder." The lady also played with Herr Straus Bach's Sonata in C minor for pianoforte and violin, and was later in the evening associated with the same artists and Signor Piatti in a con amore rendering of Spohr's Pianoforte Trio in E minor, Op. 119. Miss Santley, who was the vocalist, gracefully declaimed songs by Gounod, Schubert, and Sullivan; Mr. Zerbini, as usual,

At the following Concert (30th ult.) Madame Norman-Néruda was announced to make her first appearance this season. We must defer our notice of the event until next number.

GUILDHALL ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY.

On the afternoon of Saturday, the 21st ult., a Concert was given in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House by the Guildhall Orchestral Society, assisted by the pupils of the Guildhall School of Music. The orchestra was

The instrumental pieces performed consisted of Mendelssohn's Overture, "A Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage"; the first movement of the "Eroica" Symphony; a Largo by Handel, arranged for orchestra by Von der Finck; a Gavotte in F, by Bourgault Ducoudray; the "Serenade de Mandolins," by Desormes; and Meyerbeer's March from the "Prophète."

the "Prophete."

Miss Marie Schumann, De Keyser Exhibitioner, and pupil of Mr. Weist Hill, played the Andante and Finale of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto; Miss Ellen Marchant, pupil of Mr. J. B. Welch, of the Guildhall School, sang the aria from "La Favorita," "O mio Fernando"; Miss Isabella Stone, pupil of Signor Nicola Ferri, of the same institution, sang Verdi's "Ernani involami"; "O ruddier than the cherry" was given (with orchestra) by Mr. Henry Blower; Hobbs's "Phyllis is my only joy," by Mr. Dalgety Henderson; and Mr. Charles Chilley sang "Yes, let me like a soldier fall," from "Maritana," with orchestral accompaniment. Possibly the musical library at Guildhall is not yet very complete, and Italian opera scores may not accompaniment. Possibly the musical library at Guidnali is not yet very complete, and Italian opera scores may not be plentiful. A very slight demand on the corporate fund would remedy that evil. It was unfair to the singer and to the particular composer to give the Cavatina from "Ernani" with pianoforte accompaniment when an orchestra was at hand which had only the fault of being too powerful for the room. It completely swamped Miss Schumann's violin, so tenderly and neatly bowed by the fair executant. Miss Isabella Stone gave a true Italian rendering of the Cavatina she selected. She failed in the prolonged trill in the final cadence; but both Miss Stone and Miss Marchant are promising illustrations of the method of teaching at the Guildhall School, which may prove a valuable nursery for English opera. Miss Mar-chant's voice, if not very sympathetic, is of good quality, and in the present dearth of contraltos would be an acquisition even on the Italian stage. The male soloists did not exemplify the same advancement in style, but they sang fairly, and gained deserved applause. The room was crowded, and the concert seemed to give entire satisfaction. The Lady Mayoress was present with a large party of friends. An important question to future concertgivers in mid-winter was suggested to us by the delicious coolness of the Mansion House room, lit as it is with two or three electric lights. With the ordinary complement of gaslights, the room would possibly have been overheated; but we must remember that without some substitute for the supply, and graduated supply, of caloric, the concert-room of the future will be like an ice-house.

BOROUGH OF HACKNEY CHORAL ASSOCIATION.

The Second Concert of the season was given at the Shoreditch Town Hall, on the 23rd ult., the programme being of that classical character to which the Conductor has now thoroughly accustomed his audience. The first part contained Schubert's "Song of Miriam," and Mendelssohn's "Lauda Sion," both works displaying the excellent powers of the choir to the utmost advantage. "Miriam's War Song," as it was originally called, although brief, is one of the most charming of Schubert's compositions, the varied feelings so admirably expressed THE Second Concert of the season was given at the compositions, the varied feelings so admirably expressed in the poem being faithfully reflected in the music. Especially effective in this performance were the passages descriptive of the miracle of the parting of the waters, the destruction of Pharaoh with his host, and the final fugue, all of which were listened to with an earnestness proving that even those who could not thoroughly appreciate the beauties of the music, were modest enough to bow to its influence. Miss Marian Williams—in spite of a severe cold, which compelled her to omit a song in the second part of the programme-sang with much artistic feeling the soprano solo, her efforts at the conclusion being rewarded by the warmest applause. In Mendelssohn's work the principal vocalists were Miss Marian Williams, Miss Hilda Wilson, Mr. Sinclair Dunn, and Mr. Albert McGuckin, all of whom gave an excellent rendering of the music allotted to them, the quartets, with chorus, being especially well sung. A feature in the second part was Schumann's "Requiem for Mignon," the solos being assigned to Miss Marian Williams, Madame Clara West, Miss Hilda conducted by Mr. Weist Hill, the principal of the school, Wilson, Miss Rose Dafforne, and Mr. Albert McGuckin.

This fine composition was sung both by principals and choir with much refinement and true dramatic expression; and the music, although doubtless new to the majority of the audience, created a marked effect. Mr. J. F. Barnett's recitative and air, "Ah! when the wanderer," from his cantata, "The Building of the Ship," was excellently sung by Miss Hilda Wilson, and so enthusiastically received that she was compelled to return to the platform and bow her acknowledgments. Mr. Ernest Ford's chorus for female voices, "Winter," received a very fair rendering; and the excellent quality of the orchestra was amply evidenced by the performance of Haydn's Symphony in D (No. 2), and Auber's bright and tuneful overture "La Part du Diable." Mr. E. Prout was, as usual, an efficient Conductor.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

THE Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul was duly observed at St. Paul's Cathedral on the 25th ult., the number of services held there throughout the day having now reached the large total of eight. Only two of these, however, possess any musical interest-to wit, the Morning Service, with choral celebration of Holy Communion, at which, on the present occasion, Schubert's Mass in C was used for the first time; and the four o'clock Evensong, which for the last nine years has formed the chief musical attraction of the Festival, a full orchestra being employed in addition to the organ, and the Anthem consisting of a great portion of Mendelssohn's "St. Paul.

An Evening Service (Magnificat and Nunc dimittis), composed specially for the Festival by Mr. J. Baptiste Calkin, received ample justice from the choir and orchestra. Both canticles show the musicianship which the name of the composer leads us to look for, but give evidence, at the same time, of that tendency to drift into the part-song style which appears to be rife among the majority of the Church writers of the present day. Notwithstanding their occasional secularity in style, however, they will doubtless be welcomed as useful additions to the repertoire of the Church. The Magnificat opens with a theme in character pastoral, a tone which is more or less preserved throughout the canticle, and which, we venture to think, commends itself to thoughtful minds as possibly the truest reading of the text; the Nunc dimittis, however, is in our opinion the more pleasing portion of the Service.

The selection from Mendelssohn's "St. Paul" we have already stated, the same as in past years. solos were taken by two choristers of the cathedral and Messrs. Frost, Kenningham, Kempton, and Winn. Mr. G. C. Martin presided at the organ; Dr. Stainer, of course,

"ERIC THE DANE."

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

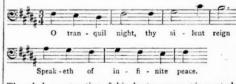
THE night of Thursday the 26th ult., was made notable in the present Manchester season by the production, at one of Mr. Charles Halle's Concerts, of a new Cantata, "Eric the Dane," the joint work of Mr. Robert McLean and Mr. Edward Hecht. In his search for a subject, the author of the book went far back in English history—to the point where that history almost touches the frontier of myth. His work deals with Saxon and Dane—the "kites and crows" of Milton's famous and contemptuous sentence-opening up, therefore, new ground for the making of cantatas, and a fresh store of heroic or graceful characters. That he will have followers may be assumed. There are a thousand incidents in the far past of our "rough island story" which still wait for the poet and musician destined to give them a higher life. The "argument" of our new Cantata is thus stated by Mr. McLean :-

"Eric, at the head of a host of Danes, invades the territory of Edward, King of the Saxons. It is night, and the two armes lie opposite each other, waiting for daylight. Eric has, on a former expedition, become acquainted with King Edward and also with his daughter, Edith. With the latter he has fallen deeply in love, and he resolves to melodious and expressive :-

see her once again for what may be the last time. Accordingly he steals, disguised as a minstrel, into the camp of the Saxons, and in that character sings before the King. His voice is recognised by *Edith*, and the lovers have a brief interview, which, however, is soon interrupted by King Edward, who has also recognised in the self-styled minstrel his enemy, Eric. The King denounces him and is about to put him to death, when the timely intercession of Edith saves him, and brings about a peace between the two leaders."

The treatment of this simple and straightforward story by Mr. McLean is, as to sequence and contrast of incident very good. With regard to the literary merit of the poem, there may be a difference of opinion. Great things are not usually expected in libretti, and, as a matter of fact, it is open to discussion whether, looking at the inevitable (pace Herr Wagner) predominance of music, the last degree of polish is necessary in verses destined to alliance with the Let me, therefore, be excused from such critisister art. cism of Mr. McLean's poem as would fall to it were it put forward to stand alone. For the rest, little is demanded save words of praise. The drama hangs well together and the verses present a sufficiently varied rhythmic form, while in most cases the diction is elevated and the ideas poetical enough for the composer's purpose. On the other hand, the rhymes are not always good, and I would particularly remind Mr. McLean that only within the limits of tradi-tional Cockaigne does "law" rhyme to "more," and dawn" to "morn."

The formal "introduction" is, in this case, not instrumental but vocal with orchestral accompaniment. A chorus of Saxons, speaking in the narrative form, pictures the night that has fallen upon the hostile camps; tells how King Edward impatiently strides upon the battlemented tower, and prays for victory in the coming fight. The chorus is in three sections—first, an Andante (E flat minor, 6-8) "Dark is the night"; next, a Fiù allegro, "Alone upon the battlemented tower"; and, lastly, a Moderato in E flat, "Strengthen the arm." All the vocal music is here extremely simple, even the contrapuntal Moderato being almost studiously diatonic. It is evident, however, even from the pianoforte score, that the orchestral music presents features of interest and importance-that it plays a distinct, though, as the true principles of art would suggest, not the chief part in the ensemble. The next number is a Scena for King Edward, "O tranquil It begins with an Andantino in B major, of a very calm and beautiful character, sufficiently indicated by the opening phrase:-



The whole construction of this short movement is masterly, and the listener is sorry when it gives place to an Allegro energico (B minor), "But peace will fly from yonder glades," although this has points of interest. At length, with a return to the original key, comes a Maestoso con moto, "O God of war," in which the King, after the manner of kings, solemnly invokes the Deity of Battles, with the customary regal confidence of being right and his enemy wrong. As the prayer concludes, distant voices are heard appealing to Thor, the opposition Lord of War. The enemy is also at his devotions, but the King seems to find some comfort in the thought that the gods of the Danes are heathens' gods, and as deaf as Baal himself. "Mighty Thor" is now appealed to in a chorus (Andante religioso, G major). The voices here are mostly in unison, breaking into harmony on the closing petition, "Warrior god, hear," with fine effect. Passing over a dialogue, in recitative, between the King and Edith, we next come to an air, "Was ever maiden's tortured heart" (Andante con moto, E flat, 9-8), in which Edith confesses to herself the love she bears for Eric, contrasting it with her duty towards her father's foe. The opening theme is both The opening theme is both

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The Princess's soliloquy is presently interrupted by her maidens, who are heard, in two-part chorus, calling her to the feast, where the King expects her presence. Their unaffected music, in thirds and sixths, contrasts well with Edith's troubled song, a portion of which she sings after answering the summons. This portion, moreover, ends without a regular cadence, on the chord of G minor, on which also the festal trumpets enter, preliminary to a "flourish" in B flat, whence, after a period of indefiniteness, the orchestral introduction of the chorus finally settles down on F major. The new number, "Now fill the foaming goblet high" (Allegro ma non troppo, F major, 4-4), contains several changes of rhythm, from a liberal use of which Mr. Hecht is not averse. After a few bars of common time, a theme in 12-8 is heard:—



This, with a short counter-theme, is worked till the common time reappears with an occasional bar of 2-4, and an exciting coda is reached. Of the good musical effect of this chorus a glance suffices to give assurance. Eric is now introduced, in his minstrel's guise, and proposes to sing of love. This he does in an air, "O love, how mighty is thy strength" (Andantino, B flat, 3-4), prominently accompanied by harp and horn. In this instance, as it appears to me, the poet has not served the musician well. His lines are too didactic for such a theme, and it is clear that Mr. Hecht could derive from them very little inspiration. This is the more to be regretted, because the opportunity, as well from a lyric as from a dramatic point of view, was splendid. Prominent in the orchestral part of this song is a theme—



which, together with the first phrase of the vocal part, is happily introduced by the orchestra as *Edith* recognises her lover, and receives his injunction to silence. The *King*, having thanked the supposed minstrel, proposes one cup more and then to rest, whereupon his men break into a savage choral strain, "Drink confusion to the foe" (Moderato ma con fuoco, D major, 3-4). There is immense energy here. Observe how the basses lead off:—



The minor seventh is significant of crashing 6-4-2 chords, and they are by no means wanting, nor, indeed, is anything else that can be called musically true, to the situation and sentiment. We are now to suppose that the lovers have an opportunity of speaking together. Eric implores Edith not to betray him, and presently both join in a duet "I'll trust thy love" (Andante, D flat), constructed as a canon on the fifth above, the second voice following at a bar's interval. When the canon closes, the orchestra takes it up, with the parts inverted, while the voices pursue an independent course. This is very well done, and admirable as a scholastic device to which nothing is sacrificed. Some animated and impassioned episodes follow, with several changes of key, &c., and the duet ends with a quasi-Andantino in B flat minor. In this number Mr. Hecht has put forth all his strength with generally good results. The music is quick—using the word in its good old Saxon sense, and not stuff wanting the breath of life. The King is now heard approaching, and Edith begs her lover to fly. But there is no time. Edward recognises his enemy (the orchestra at this point is capital), and his attendants express

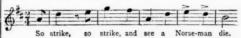
3-4), "Forth from its sheath let the sharp sword fly." The principal theme, treated contrapuntally, runs thus:-



'Tis he, 'tis he, our ha-ted foe, E-ric the Dane. Connoisseurs will at once divine that the triplets are made good use of, and this is, in fact, the case. Example, on a dominant pedal, to the words "Eric the Dane":—



Subsequently another theme appears as counterpoint to the first, and the two are worked with the ease and effect that seem to be characteristic of the composer under such circumstances. In the dialogue which follows, Edward demands the reason of Eric's intrusion, and the Dane answers to the theme of his "Love" song, while the orchestra gives out the motive already quoted. Then Eric bids his enemy strike, and as the musical subject afterwards reappears, it may be given here:—



He is answered by a short chorus of male voices, "Rush on the foe," each part uttering angry, detached sentences, whereupon Edith intervenes with an appeal for mercy, "O father, stay their hands" (Allegro agitato, D minor). She confesses her reason, and as she does so, the "love motive," followed by the opening phrases of her song, is heard to excellent purpose from the orchestra. A brief unaccompanied trio follows—"Alas! my heart knows but too well" (Andante con moto, B minor, C)—but calls for no special remark. Then Edith resumes her intercession in an Andantino, "Father, spare him":—



The theme of this having been taken up in full chorus, Edward and Eric, one desiring peace and the other love, soon settle all dispute, and then begins the final ensemble, "In the east the rising morn" (Andante mosso, E flat, C). After a short invocation of Peace, the time changes to 6-8, and a lightsome episode leads to an Allegro, common time, two in a bar. Here occurs a prominent phrase:—



A return to the opening subject is then made, and soon the Coda begins with a combination of the bass theme "Strengthen the arm," &c., in the opening chorus, and of Eric's challenge, "So strike,": both augmented ":—



animated and impassioned episodes follow, with several changes of key, &c., and the duet ends with a quasishadantino in B flat minor. In this number Mr. Hecht has put forth all his strength with generally good results. The music is quick—using the word in its good old Saxon sense, and not stuff wanting the breath of life. The King is now heard approaching, and Edith begs her lover to fly. But there is no time. Edward recognises his enemy (the But there is no time. Edward recognises his enemy (the success of the Canteria at this point is capital), and his attendants express their feelings in a savage chorus (Allegro feroce, E minor,

much with regard to the resources placed at its service as to the goodwill of the public. Having a band like that of Mr. Charles Hallé, a chorus the best in Manchester, and such principals as Miss Mary Davies, Mr. Lloyd, and Mr. Santley, Mr. Hecht would have been unreasonable indeed had he desired more favourable conditions. It will be assumed that the execution of the music fully met the anticipations of those who knew that the task involved not only novelty but difficulty. "Eric the Dane" is a work not to be entered upon with the historic caur léger of M. Emile Ollivier. Many of its numbers, for solo, chorus, and orchestra alike, are of an exacting character; wherefore it was not to be expected perhaps that the ensemble should challenge criticism as absolutely perfect. As a matter of fact, and bearing all things in mind, the execution of the work was singularly good, reflecting much credit upon those concerned, and giving the composer a perfectly fair chance of appreciation. There can be no doubt that he was appreciated-a more attentive hearing novelty never had. The audience, it is true, encored only one piece—the unaccompanied trio, "Thy shame indeed I hear thee tell" —and this was well, because the dramatic action was not materially broken. When, however, the last note had sounded, Mr. Hecht was applauded and recalled with a heartiness indicative of real enthusiasm. He will, no doubt, be encouraged by this to persevere in the high walk of art upon which he has now entered, and only needs to give more attention to pure vocal phrasing in order to do that which should be as almost surely popular as musicianly. Miss Mary Davies (Edith) did full justice to the composer's conception, singing with the power which she has recently developed, and that promises to take her into the very front rank. Mr. Lloyd, admirable always, was a perfect Eric; and, seeing his good "form," it seemed a pity that the one great song of his part does not rank as the best in the work. The King Edward of Mr. Santley commanded equal admiration. Our popular baritone undertakes no character without making it characteristic, and his impersonation of the monarch was by many a subtle touch made clear and distinct. Thanks to this general and specific excellence, the Cantata was fairly started on a path of success, and I shall only add that it deserves attention everywhere for thoroughly legitimate musical qualities.

THE DUNDEE LADIES' ORCHESTRA.

IT is not long since "Bonnie Dundee" began to claim attention as a musical town. With the exception of the "Air Mélancolique," played on the "bugpipe" by Victor Hugo's celebrated hero, it was supposed to have very little music belonging to it. But for some years past there has been abundant evidence of a great amount of latent vitality there in musical matters. Good work, chiefly choral, has been going on in many directions; but lately a remarkable impetus has been given to instrumental music, and especially to the study of the violin, which is fast becoming a household instrument, for women as much as for men.

The announcement, therefore, that the "Dundee Ladies' Orchestra," conducted by Mr. Arthur C. Haden, would give its first Concert on Monday, December 19, 1881, excited no little interest and curiosity. This orchestra numbers at present thirty-one ladies, of whom twenty-one play the violin, four the viola, four the violoncello, and two the double-bass. It would perhaps be more correct, at its present stage of development, to describe it as a class, or group of classes, all its members being pupils of Mr. Haden, and none of them having had, we are assured, more than a very few months' instruction or practice. This being so, anything like absolute excellence of playing was not to be looked for; and to venture on a public concert so early in the career of his orchestra was a bold step on the part of Mr. Haden. It was, however, justified by a degree of success which should be most en-

position, entering heartily into the situation, and giving to

every number a good share of applause.

To set this elementary band to accompany songs, matter in which first-rate orchestras are apt enough to fail in delicacy,—was perhaps a mistake; it was certainly trying to the singers, Mrs. A. C. Haden and Miss Emily Francis, both of whom, it should be mentioned to their honour, were when not singing, playing in the orchestra. The principal vocal piece was the scena from "Der Freischütz," suno The principal by Mrs. Haden with such silvery quality of voice as made it hard to realise that she was labouring under the disadvantage of a bad cold, although an apology had been previously made for her on this account. Her singing was most artistic, and elicited a warm encore. She was accompanied on the pianoforte by Mr. Haden. Weber's "Concertino" for clarinet was remarkably well played by Miss Frances Thomas, whose tone and phrasing recall those of her teacher, Mr. Lazarus. She was loudly applauded and encored.

The chief feature of the evening was Mr. Haden's own performance of the Andante and Finale from Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. His technique is of the best school; and, in his playing, he unites an uncommon facility of execution to singular beauty of tone and tenderness of expression. His enthusiastic reception showed that his efforts in the cause of music are appreciated by his fellow. townsmen, and the frequent applause which broke out at intervals, and culminated at the end of the piece, sufficiently testified to the rare pleasure afforded by his performance

to all who heard it.

If we might venture on a criticism, it would be to hint that the pianist, animated, no doubt, by a laudable desire to subdue the accompaniment to the solo part, played at times so softly as to be inaudible in the room.—a mistake. we submit, in a concerted work, where the orchestral part is of individual importance.

But this concert is of special interest, even more for what it indicates than for what it actually accomplished. It seems as if Mr. Haden might revive in this northern town the departed glories of the Venetian scuole, each of which had its "ladies' orchestra" of girl-students. But what we welcome most is the evidence of the gradual growth of instrumental music in this country. Oaks spring from acorns; but our British plan is to buy and cut down a ready-grown foreign oak, to dig a hole for it, set it there, shower gold around it, write odes and epics in its praise, and expect it to grow. It withers: and another forest-tree is imported, and erected in its place. Meanwhile, our country remains unwooded as before: we have learnt what a full-grown oak is like, and that is all. In the Leipzig letter of the January number of THE MUSICAL TIMES, reference was made to the fact that the Gewandhaus Concerts had their origin in a little club-meeting at a public-house. For eighteen years its members quietly worked, room after room becoming too small for them, before they built themselves the concert-room from which they derive their name, and of which they have just celebrated the centenary festival.

This,-from small things to great,-is the natural order of growth, the only guarantee of stability; and it is this of which we see a germ in our little Dundee orchestra. It has achieved much in a short time; another year's steady work under its Conductor should bring it far on its path to excellence and ultimate success.

MUSIC IN MANCHESTER.

MR. HALLE'S tenth Concert of the series, given on December 29, was devoted to a performance of Berlioz' Symphony, "Romeo and Juliet." The chorus and orchestra acquitted themselves admirably, the latter particularly so in the "Queen Mab" Scherzo. The principal vocalists were Miss Orridge, Mr. F. Boyle and Mr. F. King, of whom the first and last named sang their somewhat ungrateful music with considerable success, but Mr. Boyle was not so ouraging to him and to the Dundee ladies. The pieces selected were short and simple in the extreme, but tuneful and well contrasted. A few of them were varied by a piano-tofte accompaniment played by Mrs. Julian Marshall. The audience from the first manifested an indulgent temper, as creditable to their intelligence as to their dis-

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conceived themes and appropriate treatment—and played, with Mr. Hallé, Schumann's "Mahrchenbilder." In the performance of both works Signor Piatti's tone and perfection of technique were even more than usually striking. Madame Blanche Barton sang with excellent effect "Deh vieni," "Qui la voce," and Dudley Buck's song, "When the heart is young."—On the 12th ult., Berlioz' "Faust" was given, with Miss Mary Davies, Mr. Edward Lloyd, Mr. Hilton, and Mr. Santley as principal singers. The performance was of unusual excellence, both as regards orchestra and chorus, and the soloists, who were all in good voice, gave their respective parts with admirable effect.—The programme of the thirteenth Concert included amongst programme of the thirteenth Concert included amongst the instrumental works Schumann's Symphony in B flat, Op. 38 (Spring Symphony), Overtures "Hebrides" and "Coriolan," Gounod's Funeral March of a Marionette, and the Polacca from Spohr's "Faust," all of which were exceedingly well played. Mr. Hallé, who departed somewhat from his usual lines, played Rubinstein's Pianoforte Concerto. No. 4, in D minor, and with even greater success Liszt's transcription of Schubert's songs "Auf dem wasser zu singen," "Du bist die Ruh," "The Erl-King," and "Leise flehen meine Lieder." Madame Marie Roze sang "Doux rêve de ma vie "(Poniatowski), "Let the bright seraphim," and the "Habanera" from "Carmen."—On the 26th ult., Mr. Edward Hecht's Cantata "Eric On the 26th ult., Mr. Edward Hecht's Cantata "Eric the Dane," a notice of which appears in another column, was given for the first time. The second part of the Concert consisted of Beethoven's Choral Fantasia, the chorus, "Crown ye the altars," from the "Ruins of Athens," and songs given by Miss Davies, Mr. Lloyd, and Mr. Santley.

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At the Gentlemen's Concert on the 2nd ult., Mendels-sohn's "Reformation" Symphony was revived, after a lapse of some years since its last performance here. The other orchestral numbers were Hofmann's Hungarian Suite in F. Raff's Scherzo for stringed instruments, entitled "The Mill," and Berlioz' fine "Carnaval Romain" Overture. M. Dubrucq played with pure tone, good taste, and perfect mastery of technique. S. Verroust's eleventh Fantasia de Concert for oboe. Mdlle. Valleria and Mr. Santley were the vocalists: the former sang Spohr's air "Tu m' abbandoni," "To dico no" from "Carmen," and, with Mr. Santley, Mozart's duets, "La ci darem" and "Io vado, ma ti vorrei dir"; the latter gave in his incomparable style Gounod's "Au bruit des lourds marteaux" and F. Clay's "Gipsy John."

Clay's "Gipsy John."

Messrs. Risegari, Speelmann, Bernhardt, and Vieuxtemps gave a classical Chamber Concert on the 18th ult.,
when Schubert's Quintet in C, Mendelssohn's Andante in
E and Scherzo in A minor, and Svendsen's Octet in A were
admirably played. In the latter work the four artists
named above were reinforced by Messrs. Hunneman, Scuderi, Goedhart, and Smith.

Scuderi, Goedhart, and Smith.

Miss Amina Goodwin gave, on the 16th ult., a Chamber Concert, at which she was assisted by Herr Bauerkeller, and M. E. Vieuxtemps. Miss Goodwin, who, though very young, has already taken a high place amongst local pianists, has recently returned from Paris, where she has been studying, after completing a course at the Leipzig Conservatoire. Her touch is crisp and firm, her gradations of tone are legitimately produced, and her technique. tions of tone are legitimately produced, and her technique generally of remarkable excellence. Her only solo was Saint-Saëns's Menuet and Valse, Op. 56, but her artistic style was not less noticeable in the trios by Rubinstein, in B flat, Op. 52, and Mendelssohn, in C minor, Op. 66, and Grieg's Sonata for piano and violin, Op. 8. Herr Bauer-keller played in excellent style Tartini's "Trille du Diable," and M. Vieuxtemps was equally successful in a Romanza by Mendelssohn and a Tarantella by D. Popper for violoncello solo.

Mr. De Jong gave a sensational Concert on December 31, at which five military bands assisted his ordinary orchestra. The vocalists were Madame Rose Hersee and Mr. Abercrombie. Mr. De Jong played Briccialdi's Fantasia on "Lucrezia Borgia" for solo flute.——At the Concert, on the 14th ult. Madame Alice Barth, Miss Hope Glenn, Mr. Maas, and Signor Foli contributed several songs with generally good effect, if we except Mr. Maas's unfortunate selection of Rossini's florid "Ecco ridente." Berlioz' and to add such few remarks here and there as may appear March "Troyenne" and Rossini's Overture to "Semira-

length, and containing, particularly in the Andante, well-conceived themes and appropriate treatment—and played, piece entitled "The forge in the forest," by Michaelis, proved popular, but has no pretensions to artistic excellence.

The Manchester Vocal Society's programme on the 11th ult. included Spohr's Hymn to St. Cecilia, "Non s' degnare" from Gluck's "Elena e Paride," and sundry glees and partsongs, which were all rendered in a highly creditable manner. Miss Miller, who is the possessor of a pleasing soprano voice, was the solo vocalist.

HANS VON BÜLOW AND THE MEININGEN HOF-CAPELLE IN BERLIN.

By W. LANGHANS.

NOTHING, according to Goethe, is more difficult to endure than a succession of enjoyable days. Bearing in mind this warning of the poet, it was not without a feeling of anxiety that we read the announcement of six successive evening that we read the announcement of six successive evening concerts to be given by the Meiningen orchestra, under its above-named leader, in the hall of the Singakademie. And yet the recollection of the Bülow Concerts with their monster programmes of five sonatas by Beethoven respectively was still fresh in our minds; we were aware that this artist produces other and higher impressions than those of a so-called "enjoyable evening," that he conquers us by his will. And the influence of this will, of this power, was again felt at the very first concert of the present series; it was felt so distinctly and beneficently as to dispel all possible misgivings concerning our own receptive endurance, and cause us to look forward with eager antici-

pation to the evenings which were to follow.

The means by which Bülow succeeds as orchestral conductor, in irresistibly attracting and fascinating his hearers are, in the main, the same as those to which he owes his success as a virtuoso: the minute regard for detail which is elaborated with the utmost diligence, but without detracting for a moment from the uniform conception of the whole; unerring precision combined with perfect rhyth-mical freedom; and, finally, a mastery in the art of phrasing which for its taste and charm need not fear comparison with the best efforts of Italian vocalisation. These qualities he has exercised in his well-known splendid manner as a pianist in the service of the highest ideals of the art; but he is too much of a musician to be unconscious of the absolute limits of expression, which, in spite of all improvement in its mechanism, his instrument necessarily presents. He had to look for another and more variable instrument, which, endowed with a universal faculty of expression, would be in complete sympathy with his own reproductive powers, and he found it in an orchestra whose members were able and willing to enter into his artistic intentions and to realise them with a uniformity of execution such as has hitherto only been witnessed in the separate performances of individual artists. This is the great glory of the Meiningen Hof-Capelle, and in the face of it the inquiry would be a gratuitous one as to what rank it may occupy, as compared with the other Court-Orchestras. Suffice it that such perfect orchestral playing has never hitherto been heard, which praise is due not only to the faultless purity and distinctness with which every detail in the score is executed, but also to the fulness and beauty of sound which, considering the by no means unusual numerical strength of the orchestra (ten first violins, five contrabasses, three violoncellos, &c., are simply surprising. The reason for the latter phenomenon we must seek, in the first place, in the devotion of the artists to their leader, and in the purity of intonation which is shared alike by the wind and string instruments. Only in the second place can the marvellous sound-production of the Meiningen orchestra be to some extent influenced by the new instruments here made use of, viz.—the viola alta, invented by H. Ritter, of Würzburg (three), a five-stringed contrabass, constructed by Carl Otto, of Leipzig, and the chromatic kettle-drums, introduced by a Dresden maker.

phony, C major, No. 1; Overture, "Egmont"; Symphony in A, No. 7. Already the first few bars of the "Coriolan" Overture brought a surprise in their conspicuously slow tempo; a most agreeable surprise, however, since for the first time I was able fully to distinguish the ascending figure in quavers of the violins, so full of pathetic meaning. Imperceptibly almost, and as a necessary concomitant of the development of the ideas in the overture, the pace quickened more and more, reaching about midway what is considered the orthodox speed when it again slackened and gradually returned to the original tempo. This reticence in respect to time I looked upon as a good augury for the following numbers, since it is to the undue acceleration now so frequently met with in the performances of our classical masterpieces that so many other shortcomings in their execution are attribut-The reason for this prevailing tendency we must undoubtedly look for in the predominance of the pianoforte, which, with its incapacity to sustain its notes, has infused into the entire tone-perception of modern conductors (whose chief musical education has generally been obtained at the pianoforte) a certain restlessness and haste. enough, then, that the admonition to return from this erroneous path should have come from a musician whom the world justly considers the pianist par excellence. Bülow, indeed, has here again clearly shown that his capacity to express himself musically is not confined to the keys of the pianoforte; that he has completely mastered the fundamental condition of all musical delivery viz., the art of singing—with or without voice is perfectly immaterial. This orchestral singing became surprisingly conspicuous in the Andante of the C major symphony, and I could mention scores of passages where that joyous agitation manifested itself amongst the audience which in this cooler northern clime takes the place of the loud exclamations of admiration usual among Frenchmen, and Italians-even at seemingly unimportant and generally disregarded melodic particles such as this :-



The crowning success, however, of the entire symphony was the, as I had hitherto considered it, musically rather insignificant phrase with which the first violins usher in the finale. Here Bülow laid his biton aside, leaving the performers entirely to their own devices, who on their part made such excellent use of their liberty, imparting to the phrase, combined with the highest precision, so much individual colouring that it assumed a degree of importance to which we have been altogether unaccustomed. I am convinced that a repetition of the experiment in similar passages would prove successful. As such I might instance the humoristic conversation at the conclusion of the B flat major symphony—



the effect of which would be similarly enhanced by an individual rendering unfettered by the dictates of the conductor's bâton.

In mentioning the B flat major symphony I have already trespassed upon the proceedings of the third evening, and return now to those of the second, equal in interest to any of the series, both as regards the programme—Overture "Zur Weihe des Hauses" (Op. 124), Concerto for pianoforte, violin, and violoncello (Op. 56), Symphony "Eroica"—and its execution. The triple Concerto does not rank among Beethoven's masterpieces, and the rendering of the solo parts by Mr. G. F. Hatton

and Herren Fleischhauer (violin) and Hilpert (violoncello), although satisfactory, was not brilliant. Nevertheless, the unexampled finish of the ensemble kindled a warm admiration for this work also, while the effect produced by overture and symphony was simply electrifying.

On the third evening—Symphony, B flat major; Overtures, "Leonore," Nos. 1 and 3; Symphony, C minor— Bülow's subjective reading was again most pronounced, and met with enthusiastic approval. I do not remember ever witnessing a similar enthusiasm at the Singakademie to that aroused by the performance of the third "Leonore" To mention one or two particulars only of this incomparable rendering. The violin passage immediately preceding the final Presto, which usually, according to the prescript of "so schnell als möglich" with an additional "noch etwas schneller" ("as fast as possible" and "a little faster still"-actually to be found in one of Schumann's compositions), degenerates into a breathless scrambling of the violinists, was commenced in exceedingly moderate tempo, gradually accelerated and enlivened in its dynamic effect by the entry of additional violins so that both in distinctness and animation nothing was left to be desired. No less novel and gratifying was the management of the trumpet funfare where the inartistic practice of most conductors of placing the player of the instrument outside the concert-room was dispensed with, the player instead being made to deliver his solo the first time sitting, with his instrument turned downwards, and the second time standing up and turning towards the audience, whereby the desired contrast was completely realised. Respecting the two symphonies of this even ing I can only regret that space does not permit me to invite the reader to follow me step by step through the scores in order to point out the reverent and intelligent care bestowed upon them by the conductor. One part, however, I must not pass over in silence; I allude to the Trio of the C minor Symphony with its animated quaverfigure for the basses, which, as a rule, is represented as a hopeless chaos. In this instance, thanks to the moderate speed at which it was given, and to a scarcely perceptible rest (similar to the breath-taking of the singer) before the entry of the basses, the passage reached my ear, for the first time since my more than thirty years' acquaintance with it, with absolute clearness.

I cannot blame the public if, exhausted by the exertions of these three concerts, it regarded rest as imperative, and consequently mustered in comparatively small numbers on the Mendels-ohn evening. But I heartily condole with them, nevertheless, and especially with those amongst them who, while granting to Mendels-sohn a first position as a composer of oratorio, question his title to be ranked as a classical representative of instrumental music; they would have been practically taught here to entertain a different opinion. Indeed, from their point of view, the Mendels-sohn evening might easily be considered the most remarkable and at the same time most enjoyable of the entire series, since in the works chosen for performance—Overtures, "Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage" and "Fingal's Cave," the Violin Concerto, the Pianoforte Capriccio in B minor, and the so-called "Scotch" Symphony in A minor—the revered master was revealed in all his greatness as a symphonic writer, the same minute care having been bestowed upon the elaboration of every detail as in the case of Beethoven. Again, in the orchestral part of the Violin Concerto, Bülow's slackened tempo appeared at first somewhat strange, the result being, however, that for the first time I was able to appreciate completely the instrumentation of

this marvellous score.

That which Mendelssohn had failed to attract—viz., an audience filling the very last seat of the Singakademie, as in the preceding concerts—was again realised by Brahms on both the evenings devoted to his compositions. Whatever share in this fact may be assigned to the personal cooperation of the composer—the first evening at the pianoforte, the second as conductor—certain it is that the presence and the highly animated disposition of the audience, composed of the intellectual *élite* of Berlin, conclusively proved how much solid ground Brahms's compositions have already gained in this capital. The royal box was occupied on both occasions by the members of the Crowa

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ANTHEM FOR EASTER.

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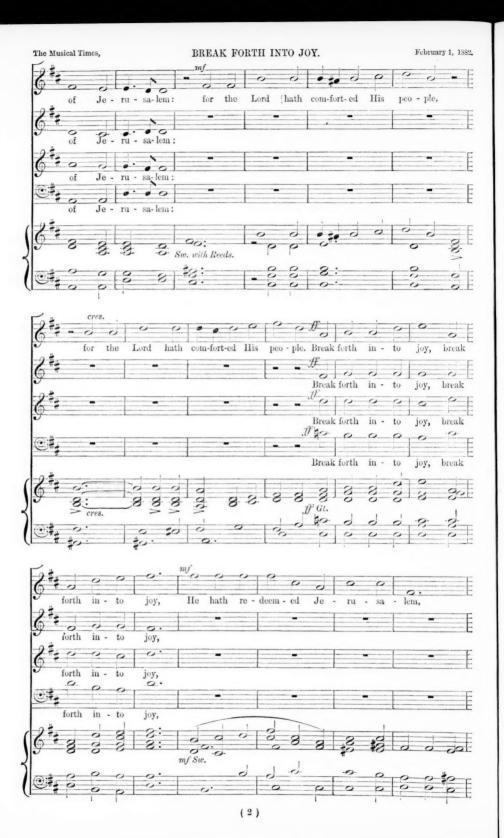
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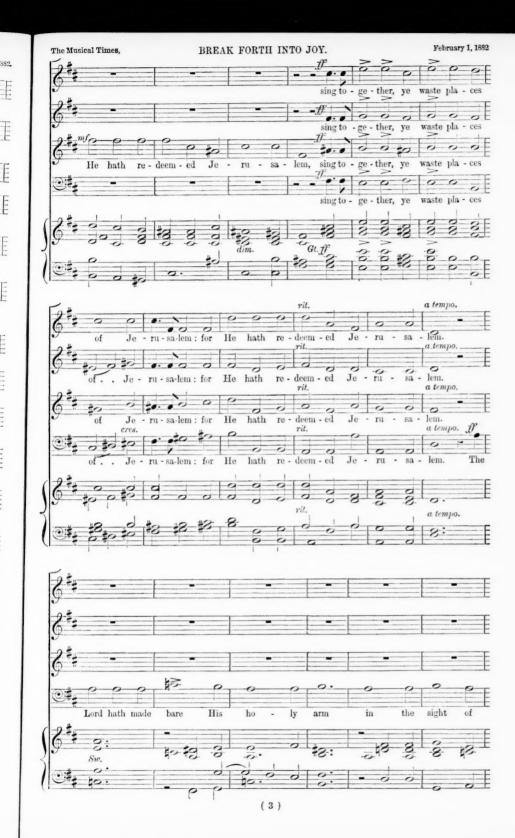
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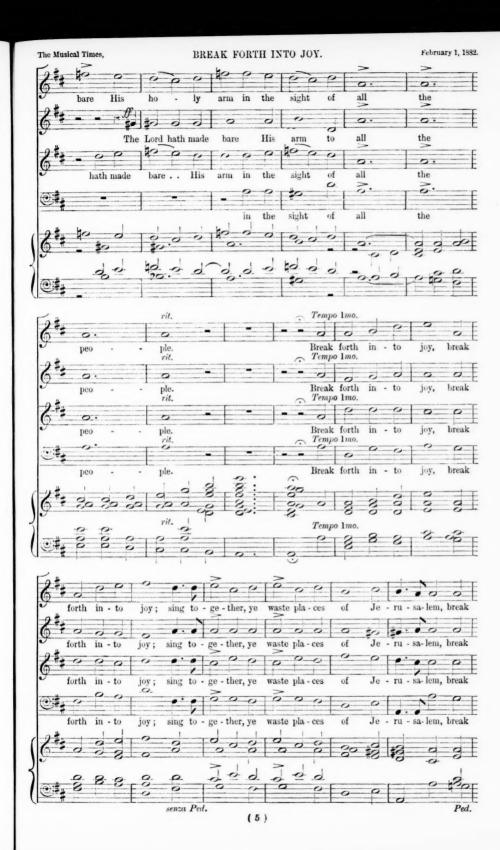
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XUM

ORATORIOS, CANTATAS, MASSES, &c.

ONE SHILLING EACH.

THOMAS ANDERTON.

THE WRECK OF THE HESPERUS.

E. ASPA.

THE GIPSIES.

ASTORGA.

STABAT MATER.

BACH.

GOD GOETH UP WITH SHOUTING. GOD'S TIME IS THE BEST. MY SPIRIT WAS IN HEAVINESS. O LIGHT EVERLASTING. BIDE WITH US. A STRONGHOLD SURE. MAGNIFICAT.

I. BARNBY.

REBEKAH.

BEETHOVEN.

ENGEDI, OR DAVID IN THE WILDERNESS. MOUNT OF OLIVES. MASS IN C (LATIN WORDS).
MASS IN C (LATIN AND ENGLISH). RUINS OF ATHENS.

Sir W. STERNDALE BENNETT. INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ODE, 1862.

J. BRAHMS.
A SONG OF DESTINY.

CARISSIMI.

JEPHTHAH.

CHERUBINI.

REQUIEM MASS IN C MINOR (LATIN AND ENGLISH). THIRD MASS, IN A (CORONATION). FOURTH MASS, IN C.

SIR M. COSTA.

THE DREAM.

NIELS W. GADE.

SPRING'S MESSAGE, 8d. CHRISTMAS EVE. THE ERL-KING'S DAUGHTER.

HERMANN GOETZ.

BY THE WATERS OF BABYLON.

NŒNIA.

CH. GOUNOD.

MESSE SOLENNELLE (LATIN WORDS) THE SEVEN WORDS OF OUR SAVIOUR ON THE CROSS (FILLE JERUSALEM).
DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM. GALLIA.

J. O. GRIMM.

THE SOUL'S ASPIRATION.

HANDEL.

MESSIAH (POCKET EDITION).
ISRAEL IN EGYPT (DITTO).
JUDAS MACCABÆUS (DITTO).
DETTINGEN TE DEUM.
UTRECHT JUBILATE.
O PRAISE THE LORD WITH ONE CONSENT.
ACIS AND GALATEA.
ENTRE OF LARDEN ACIS AND GALATEA. EDITED BY J. BARNBY.

HAYDN.

THE CREATION (POCKET EDITION).
SPRING. SUMMER. AUTUMN. WINTER.
FIRST MASS, IN B FLAT (LATIN AND ENGLISH).
FIRST MASS, IN B FLAT (LATIN WORDS).
SECOND MASS, IN C (LATIN WORDS). THIRD MASS (IMPERIAL) (LATIN WORDS).
THIRD MASS (IMPERIAL) (LATIN AND ENGLISH). TE DEUM (LATIN AND ENGLISH).

DR. HILLER. A SONG OF VICTORY.

G. A. MACFARREN.

MAY DAY. MENDELSSOHN.

HYMN OF PRAISE (LOBGESANG). AS THE HART PANTS.
COME, LET US SING.
WHEN ISRAEL OUT OF EGYPT CAME. 8 VOICES NOT UNTO US. NOT UNITO US.
LORD, HOW LONG WILT THOU FORGET ME:
HEAR MY PRAYER.
THE FIRST WALPURGIS NIGHT.
MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.
NAME OF THE PROPERTY OF MAN IS MORTAL (8 Voices) FESTGESANG (HYMNS OF PRAISE). FESTGESANG (MALE VOICES). CHRISTUS. TO THE SONS OF ART. AVE MARIA (SAVIOUR OF SINNERS). 8 VOICES. THREE MOTETTS. FEMALE VOICES.

MEYERBEER.

91ST PSALM (LATIN WORDS). GIST PSALM (ENGLISH WORDS).

MOZART.

FIRST MASS (LATIN AND ENGLISH). FIRST MASS (LATIN AND ENGLISH), SEVENTH MASS (LATIN WORDS), TWELFTH MASS (LATIN WORDS), TWELFTH MASS (LATIN AND ENGLISH), REQUIEM MASS (LATIN WORDS), REQUIEM MASS (LATIN AND ENGLISH),

PERGOLESI.

STABAT MATER (FEMALE VOICES).

ROMBERG.

THE LAY OF THE BELL (New Edition). THE TRANSIENT AND THE ETERNAL.

ROSSINI.

STABAT MATER (LATIN AND ENGLISH).

F. SCHUBERT.

SONG OF MIRIAM.

MASS IN G.

R. SCHUMANN. ADVENT HYMN, "IN LOWLY GUISE." MANFRED.

NEW YEAR'S SONG.

E. SILAS. MASS IN C.

ALICE MARY SMITH. ODE TO THE NORTH-EAST WIND.

SPOHR.

THE LAST JUDGMENT.
GOD, THOU ART GREAT.
THE CHRISTIAN'S PRAYER. HYMN TO ST. CECILIA.

A. SULLIVAN.

FESTIVAL TE DEUM.

C. M. VON WEBER. MASS IN G (LATIN AND ENGLISH).
MASS IN E FLAT (LATIN AND ENGLISH). JUBILEE CANTATA.

S. WESLEY.

DIXIT DOMINUS.

S. S. WESLEY. O LORD, THOU ART MY GOD.

LONDON: NOVELLO, EWER AND CO.

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Prince's family and the Hereditary Prince of Meiningen: at the second concert the Emperor himself was present.

The present would be so far a favourable opportunity for entering somewhat minutely into the merits of Brahms's productions, since in the two concerts of the 8th and 9th ult. (to which on the first-named day a matinée was added, consisting exclusively of pianoforte works by the same composer), a tolerably complete representative picture was offered of his creative activity. article being, however, devoted chiefly to the Meiningen orchestra, I must be content to record the programmes and their more or less satisfactory execution, viz.-Pianoforte Concertos, Nos. 1 and 2 (the former played by Bülow, the Concertos, Nos. 1 and 2 (the former played by Bullow, Italian by the composer); Symphony, C minor, No. 1; Orchestral Variations on a theme by Haydn, Op. 56B; Serenade for small orchestra, Op. 16; "Tragical" Overture, Op. 81; and "Academical" Overture, Op. 80. In all these compositions a gifted artistic individuality manifests itself, always commanding respect, though in its cool, aristocratic attitude, but rarely, at least in my case, warming the heart. Brahms appears to me more rational in his thoughtful, sombre works, such as the "Tragical" Overture and the C minor Symphony, than, for instance, in the seemingly naïve Screnades. His predilection for, and universally acknowledged mastery in, the variation-form should be an argument in the side of his contrapuntal knowledge, and of the predominance of the reflective faculty in his artistic nature. The last-mentioned qualities are conspicuous also in the second pianoforte concerto, which, as the latest manuscript) production of the artist, commanded the special attention of all present. Appertaining to the unfortunately now so much cultivated dual-species of symphony and solo-piece, wherein even the most expert virtuoso finds himself mercilessly "pushed against the wall" (to use a Bismarckian expression), this work by no means merits the applause which in its generally enthusiastic disposition the audience accorded to it. Nor can, in my opinion, the want of charm noticeable in the new concerto be ascribed merely to the fact that the solo part was executed by the composer himself, whose hardness of tone-somewhat modified only by the splendid Bechstein instrument-could not be gratifying to ears just now rendered over-critical by the presence of a Bülow.

Looking back once more upon the total artistic results achieved by the Meiningen Capelle Concerts in Berlin, we must confess that not only are we indebted to them for a series of enjoyments of the highest and noblest character, but we may also expect to date from them a salutary revolution in our musical status generally. Both on the part of the public and the critical press the opinion was expressed unanimously that a community of excellent artists such as Berlin, and more especially the Royal orchestra, can boast should no longer be suffered, through unfavourable circumstances, to remain in a state of quasiunproductiveness; that the obstacles should be removed which the harassing life of a great capital and the regard for the financial welfare of our Opera have placed in the way of our artists-every one of whom is at least the equal of their Meiningen rivals-so that they may be enabled to devote more time to the serious study of the symphonic masterpieces. In this direction, then, a reformatory influence may be anticipated from the Meiningen Capelle similar to that which the famous troupe of dramatic artists emanating from the same place has exercised upon the drama throughout Germany. We have thus double cause to be grateful to the small Thuringian Residence; sufficient reason to look upon it as a fostering asylum of culture which our fatherland, in the present phase of its development, stands peculiarly in need of, lest it should become unmindful of its true calling, viz.—to preserve and increase our ideal possessions.

MR. FRANCIS HOWELL, composer of the Oratorios "Captivity" and "Land of Promise," the Cantata "Song of the Months," and other works, has, we regret to hearbeen seriously ill for the last fifteen months, and become totally blind. The leading inhabitants of Westerham, where he was organist for seven years, in sympathy with his afflictions, have organised a testimonial fund, in aid of which Mr. S. C. Grover, of the London and County Bank in that town, will gladly receive contributions.

THE Philharmonic Society announces six Concerts during the season. The programmes present an unusual amount of variety, modern runsic being judiciously mixed with many of the time-honoured works for which the subscribers annually look. An important feature will be Rubinstein's "Paradise Lost" (the English adaptation by Mr. Henry Hersee), the composer having been specially invited to conduct its performance. Liszt's symphonic poem "Hungaria" will also be produced for the first time in England, and Signor Sgambati, of Rome, will make his first appearance in this country, and play his new Pianoforte Concerto. Arrangements are also in progress for the production of Brahms's new Pianoforte Concerto, and his Choral Ode "Nanie" (Schiller's poem), never before heard in England. Native talent will be recognised by the production of new orchestral works by Mr. C. Villiers Stanford and Mr. F. Corder. We may also mention that Weber's "Preciosa," with the dialogue (in Cantata form) to be read, will be given at the last concert. Under the direction of Mr. W. G. Cusins (who conducts the concerts), a Philharmonic choir of 200 voices is actively engaged in rehearsing the choral works to be given, and, pursuing the course adopted last season, two rehearsals will precede every concert. Madame Christine Nilsson, Madame Rose Hersee, Madame Marie Roze, Miss Marriott, Miss Santley, Miss Orridge, Mr. Maas, Mr. Barton McGuckin, Mr. 1 Boyle, Mr. Edward Lloyd, Mr. Frederic King, Mr. F. B. Foote, Signor Foli, and Mr. J. T. Carrodus have already accepted engagements; and negotiations are pending with several eminent artists, including Madame Albani, Madame Patey, Herr Joachim, and Madame Schumann. concert takes place on the 9th inst.

MR. THOMAS MOLINEUX, who so munificently gave the Royal Society of Musicians one thousand guineas last year, has recently forwarded to the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. W. H. Cummings, a letter inclosing a New Year's gift of one hundred guineas. We are glad to be able to add that the members of the Society at their Christmas general meeting, unanimously decided to rescind the clause in the by-laws of the Society which made it imperative for all candidates for membership to have resided for a certain period within twenty-five miles of London-an absurd regulation, for as soon as a candidate became elected he was free to live where he pleased; and, as a matter of fact, there have been members and claimants on the Society in America, Australia, France, and other foreign countries. The Society is described in its charter as of Great Britain, and it is now wisely and liberally determined that professors of music in any part of Great Britain shall be eligible for membership. This reform was ardently desired by many members of the Society now deceased, notably Sir Sterndale Bennett and Sir John Goss, and it is to be hoped that all cathedral organists and eminent provincial musicians will at once evince their instinct for self-protection, and their love and charity for their less fortunate brethren and sisters, by enrolling themselves as members of this truly benevolent institution. The books of the Society show that in the year 1881 actual money grants have been made to over eighty persons, in various sums amounting in the aggregate to nearly three thousand pounds.

MR. EDWARD R. TERRY was, on the 11th ult., presented by the choir of St. Peter's Church, Paddington, with a testimonial, on his resigning the post of Organist and Choirmaster, which he had held for eight and a half years. The presentation took the form of a beautifully illuminated address accompanied by an ebony and gold cabinet, containing bound volumes of all Handel's and Mendelssohn's Oratorios, and works by Bach, Beethoven, Sterndale Bennett, Barnby, H. Smart, Guilmant, &c. Mr. Terry acknowledged the present in a few well-chosen words, and the Vicar and Churchwarden expressed their indebtedness to him for his valuable services.

A CONCERT will be given on Thursday evening, the 9th inst., at the Langham Hall, Great Portland Street, in aid of the fund for the restoration of Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone. Miss Mary Davies, Madame Mudie-Bolingbroke, Mr. John Thomas (harp), and Mr. Charles Fletcher (violin) are among the artists announced to appear.

Voices

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Three Orchestral Concerts, at popular prices, are announced by Mr. Walter Macfarren at St. James's Hall, which promise to be of the highest interest. There will be a band of seventy performers, led by M. Sainton, comprising most of our eminent orchestral performers. The programmes will include Beethoven's Symphony in C minor (No. 5) and Overture, "Leonora" (No. 3); Weber's Overture to "Oberon"; Spohr's Symphony "Die Weihe der Töne" and Dramatic Concerto for violin; Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, Overture to "Ruy Blas," and Overture, Scherzo, Notturno, and Wedding March from the "Midsummer Night's Dream" music; Schumann's Pianoforte Concerto in A minor; Sterndale Bennett's Pianoforte Concerto in A minor; Sterndale Bennett's Pianoforte Concerto in Batt, Pastoral Overture, Overture "Hero and Leander," Overture "King Henry V." (first time in London), and Pianoforte Concertstück in E. The solo instrumentalists are Herr Joachim and M. Sainton (violin), Signor Piatti (violoncello, Miss Cantelo, Miss Margaret Gyde, and Mr. Charlton T. Speer (pianoforte); and the solo vocalists Miss Mary Davies, Miss Clara Samuell, Madame Patey, Mr. Edward Lloyd, and Mr. Santley. The concerts (which will be conducted by Mr. Walter Macfarren) will take place on Saturday evenings, commencing on the 25th inst.

We take the following from the Times of the 18th ult.:—

A meeting of the citizens of Manchester, convened by the Mayor, in compliance with a requisition signed by Mr. Charles Hallé and other prominent musicians, was held yesterday at the Town Hall for the purpose of considering the desirability of establishing a National Conservatoire of Music in London on the lines advocated by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Albany, and Prince Christian on the occasion of their recent visit to Manchester. The Mayor presided, and there was a large attendance of musicians. Mr. Charles Hallé, in moving a resolution approving the scheme for the establishment of a National Conservatoire, said England was the only country in Europe which did not possess such an institution, and yet it was the most music-loving, as distinguished from music-making, country in the world. There was a great lack of competent teaching power in the country, and there were no means by which young people who promised to become good musicians could be trained, unless their parents were possessed of ample resources. The lack of teaching power would be met by the proposed institution, which would create a number of thorough musicians. In was intended to give education gratuitously to all pupils at the Conservatoire, but they would be bound to go through the full course of five or six years' study. In this respect the Conservatoire was could enter for as many terms as they pleased. There would be more English vocalists and more musicians in the front rank, if they could complete their education at home. A Frenchman, a German, a Swede, a Dutchman could complete his education in his own country, but an Englishman had to be sent abroad to finish his musical education. This would no longer be necessary when the Conservatorie was established, and he believed it would be so beneficial in its effects that it would change the musical face of the country completely. Mr. Freemantle seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. John Slagg, M.P., and carried unan

The prospectus of the "Sunday Evening Association," recently forwarded to us, announces as its object "to bring together all persons who, estimating highly the elevating influence of music, the sister arts, literature and science, desire by means of meetings on Sunday evenings to see them more fully identified with the religious life of the people." As we have always warmly advocated such performances of sacred music, we need scarcely say that the movement has our heartiest sympathy; and, if only as a protest against the hysterical "services" to which we have lately called attention, we hope that all true music-lovers will give this project their earnest support. The first meeting takes place at Neumeyer Hall, Hart Street, Bloomsbury, on Sunday, the 12th inst., when selections from "Elijah," some of Mendelssohn's Psalms, and fourpart songs will be performed.

SPECIAL Services were held at Christ Church, Bermondsey, on Christmas Day. The Morning Service consisted of Dykes's Te Deum in F, Garrett's Kyrie in D, and Hopkins's Anthem, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem." The Evening Service was Bunnett in F, and the Anthem "Now when Jesus was born" (Hatton). At the close of the Evening Service the recitative and solo "But who may abide" and the chorus "Glory to God" ("Messiah"), Gounod's "Nazareth." and Mozart's "Gloria" were well rendered. A selection of carols was also sung. Mr. Stretton Swann presided at the organ.

THE provisional programme of the Birmingham Musical Festival in August next announces for Tuesday morning Mendelssohn's "Elijah"; Tuesday evening, Sir Julius Benedict's Cantata "Graziella," and a miscellaneous Selection, including Cowen's Scandinavian Symphony and Gounod's "Marche Nuptiale." On Wednesday morning will be produced Gounod's Oratorio, written expressly for the Festival, called "The Redemption"; and in the evening Mr. A. R. Gaul's Cantata "The Holy City," C. V. Stanford's Serenade for orchestra, and Berliod Overture to "Benvenuto Cellini" will be given. Thursday morning will be devoted to the "Messiah"; and in the evening Gade's new Cantata "Psyche," Weber's Concerto for clarinet and orchestra, and the Overture to "William Tell" will be performed. Friday morning's programme will comprise Cherubini's Mass in C, Mozart's Symphony in G minor, Brahms's "Triumphlied," and Beethoven's "Mount of Olives"; and the Festival will conclude on Friday evening with a repetition of Gounod's new Oratorio. A programme of such high interest reflects the utmost credit upon all concerned in its management; and there can be little doubt that artists and amateurs of all countries will assemble to do honour to so memorable an occasion.

We are requested to state that Sir Michael Costa has awarded the prize of ten guineas and the gold medal—offered by the Academical Board of Trinity College, London, for the best sonata for pianoforte and violin—to Mr. J. Conway Brown, a Fellow and Licentiate of the College. He has also accorded special mention to a sonata with the motto "Vulnerati, non victi." The prize of three guineas, offered for the best choral or hymn-tune, has been awarded by the adjudicator, Professor W. H. Monk, to Mr. W. H. Sampson. Sir Herbert Oakeley, the adjudicator in the competition for the best essay on "The Importance of General Culture to the Musician," has awarded the gold medal to Miss Amelia Roberts, and distinguished as proxime accessit Miss Gertrude Mosely, both ladies being students of Trinity College.

A VERY Successful Concert was given at the Victoria Hall, Victoria Park, on the 25th ult. The vocalists were Miss Mary Beare, R.A.M. (who won great applause for her rendering of Weber's "Softly sighs" and Bishop's "Mocking-Bird," the flute obbligato to the latter being admirably played by Mr. J. Beare), Miss Hughes, Mr. Alfred Kenningham, and Mr. J. T. Hutchinson. Mdlle. C. A. Brousil gave violin solos; and the programme was agreeably diversified by a selection of part-songs, well sung by Messrs. Everett, Ponsford, and Thomas. The accompaniments were played by Mrs. J. Hughes and Miss Beare, and Messrs. W. Thomas and W. T. Beare were the Conductors.

The New Highbury Athenæum, which has replaced the old iron building of the same name, was opened on the 23rd ult. with a Conversazione. It is a handsome stone structure in the modern Italian style, built from the designs of Mr. Pickering, capable of holding 1,000 people, and provided with a permanent concert platform, accomodating 200 performers. The Highbury Philharmonic Society whose concerts henceforth will be held in this hall, performed a selection of music, under the direction of Dr. Bridge, the programme including the Overture to "Zampa." a Minuet and Trio by the Conductor, and several partsongs.

The prospectus of the Brighton Sacred Harmonic Society, under the conductorship of Mr. Robert Taylor, announces three Subscription Concerts during the ensuing season, commencing on the 7th inst., the programmes of which will be selected from Macfarren's "Christmas," J. F. Barnett's "Ancient Mariner," Mendelssohn's 42nd Psalm, Handel's "Joshua," and Gounod's "Messe Solennelle, "several madrigals and part-songs being also included. The organist is Mr. F. Butler, jun.

THE Church of St. Alphage, Southwark, situate in Lancaster Street, Borough Road, will be opened on Thursday, the 2nd inst., on which occasion Evensong will be sung with full orchestral accompaniment by the Orchestral Guild of St. Stephen, South Kensington, commencing at 8 o'clock.

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Mr. Sims Reeves's first Concert of operatic, national, and miscellaneous music took place at St. James's Hall on the 24th ult. A notice was circulated in the hall that Mr. Reeves would be unable to sing all the music set down for him in consequence of the weather having affected his hroat. He was consequently compelled to omit the scena "Thro' the forests" ("Der Freischütz"), but he gave "My pretty Jane" and "The Bay of Biscay," with the "My pretty Jane" and "The Bay of Biscay," with the usual result of arousing the audience to enthusiasm. Madame Marie Roze, Miss Spenser Jones, Mr. Herbert Reeves, Mr. F. Barrington Foote, and Mr. Henry Pyatt pleased greatly in their various solos, Miss Jones winning an encore for her singing of "On the banks of Allan Water." The Anemoic Union played selections from "Don Giovanni," "Il Conte Ory," &c., and Mr. Lazarus contributed a clarinet solo. Mr. Sidney Naylor officiated as conductor.

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THE Erith Choral Society gave the first Concert of the tenth season at the Public Hall on the 17th ult., conducted by Mr. Richard Lemaire. Mendelssohn's "Elijah" was performed with orchestral accompaniment, the band being composed of members of the Royal Artillery, under the leadership of Mr. Mansfield. The vocalists were Madame Worrell, Mr. Redfern Hollins, and Mr. Frederic King, the alto solos being sung by a member of the choir. The choruses were given with much precision and effect. Mr. W. S. Hoyte presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. G. E. Blunden at the harmonium.

THE 119th monthly Concert of the Grosvenor Choral Society was given at the Grosvenor Hall on the 20th ult., inder the direction of Mr. G. R. Egerton. The principal feature of the programme was the comic Cantata, "Jack and the Beanstalk," by Edmund Rogers. The solos were rendered by Mrs. Luff, Miss Lizzie Turner, Mr. S. G. Millen, and Mr. R. Prestridge Tabb. A miscellaneous selection was also given, in which Mrs. Alfred Morris, Miss Annie Daymond, R.A.M., and the before-mentioned vocalists took part. Miss Florence Hartley was an able accompanist.

WE are informed that, besides the series of Symphony Concerts announced by Messrs Schulz-Curtius for May and June next, Mr. Charles Hallé has consented to undertake the artistic direction and conductorship of the series of Symphony Concerts to be given at St. James's Hall on Saturday nights during the winter 1882-3, beginning in October, and ending in June. On some occasions, when Mr. Hallé will be compelled to be absent owing to his engagements in the country, other conductors of eminence will be invited to take his place as guests.

A SACRED Concert took place at Tottenham Court Road Chapel on the 23rd ult., under the direction of Mr. Arthur Dorey. The vocalists were Miss Annie Matthews, Miss Jeanie Rosse, Messrs. W. Rendell and H. G. Froome, all of whose efforts were much appreciated by the audience. Two violin solos by Miss Titterton were very successful, and anthems by Goss, Gounod, &c., agreeably varied the programme. Mr. Dorey played two organ solos with excellent effect.

THE following is a list of the candidates who have passed the recent Examinations at the University of London: Intermediate D. Mus. Examination (First Division): William Henry Hunt, private study. Intermediate Examination in Music (First Division): Ebenezer Goold, Trinity College, Dublin, and New College; (Second Division): Walter Hurst, Owens College.

A CONCERT was given at the Lecture Hall, Bloomsbury Chapel, on Tuesday, the 24th ult., by the choir, under the direction of Mr. J. G. Freeman. The programme, which consisted of ballads and glees, was executed very creditably. Miss Turner and Mr. Arthur Weston were the soloists.

THE Church Times says :-

The small organ on wheels, just erected in St. Paul's Cathedral by Willis, was used for the first time on Christmas Day to accompany the celebrant's chanting of the Comfortable Words, Preface, &c., at the High Celebration. The effect was excellent, far better than when the great organ was used, the distance of the latter from the high altar, and the difficulty felt by both celebrant and organist in hearing each other, rendering it almost impossible for them to keep together.

THE Royal Albert Hall Choral Society gave the usual performance of "The Messiah," on the evening of Dec. 26, the soloists being Mesdames Marie Roze and Isabel Fassett, Messrs. Lloyd and Santley. The gentlemen were both in excellent voice, and sang the tenor and bass solos in their usual perfect style. Madame Fassett made an excellent impression by her beautiful voice and expressive rendering of the contralto airs, and Madame Roze was much appreciated in "Rejoice greatly." The pressive rendering of the contratto airs, and Madame Roze was much appreciated in "Rejoice greatly." The choir was effective, though hardly so numerous as usual. On the 18th ult. Hiller's "Song of Victory" and Sullivan's "Martyr of Antioch" were performed, with Miss Anna Williams, Madame Trebelli, and Messrs, Frank Boyle, F. King, and Brereton as principals. Mr. Barnby conducted on both occasions.

THE first number of a monthly journal devoted to music, called the "St. Cecilia Magazine," published in Edinburgh with the commencement of the new year, may be accepted as a proof of the growing love for, and appreciation of, the art in Scotland. It is evidently edited by one who is not only an earnest partisan, but a valuable worker in the good cause; and as he has enlisted the services of thoroughly competent contributors, there can be little doubt of the permanent success of the new venture, which we need scarcely say has our warmest sympathy.

A CONCERT was given at Regent's Park Chapel on Thursday, December 22, under the management of Mr. Hulbert L. Fulkerson, assisted by Miss Henrietta Beebe, Miss Kate Bentley, Miss Augusta Arnold, Mr. Alfred Moore, and Mr. R. H. Cummings, vocalists. Herr Otto Booth contributed two violin solos, which were much appreciated. The accompaniments were artistically played by Mr. Ernest Ford on the pianoforte, and Mr. Ernest O. Kiver officiated at the organ.

At the Priory Church of St. Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, a selection of Christmas Carols was sung after Evensong on New Year's Day, among which were Novello's arrangement of "Adeste Fideles," Gounod's "Nazareth," "Bethlehem," &c. A choir, increased for the occasion, rendered both the Service and the Carols in a manner reflecting much credit upon Mr. F. Earnshaw, the Organist and Choirmaster.

The Organ, rebuilt by Bryceson and Sons, at St. Luke's Church, Woodside, near Croydon, was reopened by Mr. Charles J. Frost, Mus. Bac., Cantab., on the 18th ult., when an excellent programme was provided. The choir of the church sang two anthems, and Bunnett's Service in F, accompanied by Mr. George, Organist of the church. An appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. H. R. Blackett, M.A., Vicar of St. Andrew's, Croydon.

THE members of the St. George's Glee Union held their usual monthly Concert at the Pimlico Rooms on the 5th ult. The programme, which consisted of a miscellaneous selection, was well performed. The soloists were Madame Osborne Williams, Miss Edith Mahon, Mr. H. Schartau, Mr. H. Parkin, Mr. T. Burridge, and Mr. P. Hannant. Mr. F. R. Kinkee accompanied, and Mr. Joseph Monday

THE Bolingbroke Choral Society gave its first Concert on the 23rd ult., at Bolingbroke Hall, when the greater part of "The Messiah" was rendered by a chorus of sixty voices, assisted by Miss Bessie Webber, Miss Edith Ball, Mr. F. Brough, and Mr. G. Whillier. Miss Halcrow presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. J. Liddell at the harmonium. Mr. John Ulrich was Conductor.

A SERVICE of Praise was held on December 22 at St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square, at which portions of "The Messiah" were sung. The choir was assisted by about thirty gentlemen, and Mr. W. de M. Sergison ably presided at the organ. The solos were sung entirely by members of the choir.

In consequence of the resignation of Dr. Armes, Mr. T. A. Alderson, Organist of St. Andrew's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has been elected Conductor of the Durham Musical Society.

THE Queen has been pleased to accept the dedication to her by M. Gounod of his Oratorio "The Redemption," composed for the next Birmingham Musical Festival.

THE Choir of the Kyrle Society, under the direction of Mr. Malcolm Lawson, gave a performance of "Elijah" on Thursday, the 12th ult., in the Church of St. Clement's, Notting Hill. The soloists were Miss Edith Philips, Miss E. Lawson, Miss Clara Myers, Mr. George Corby, and Mr. Albert Orme. Mr. E. H. Turpin presided at the organ, and Mr. W. Tate at the harmonium.

MR. WALTER SKEEN gave a Concert on the 17th ult. in the New Public Hall, Balham. The vocalists were Miss M. Roby, Miss Marian Burton, Mr. G. Bassett, and Mr. Tabb, all of whom were most favourably received by the audience. The "Toy" Symphony was a feature in the programme. Mr. Percy Hawkins was an efficient accompanist.

Mr. Walter Wesche gave an Organ Recital at Lancaster Hall on the 16th ult. The programme included selections from the works of Bach, Gounod, Berlioz, &c. Mr. Gabriel Thorp and Mr. D. Trevor Roper were the vocalists, and Mr. Russell Lochner presided at the pianoforte.

THE prospectus of the third season of the Brondesbury Philharmonic Society, under the conductorship of Mr. Frederick Walker, announces that an Amateur Orchestral Association, conducted by Herr Alfred Laubach, has been formed in connection with the Society, meetings for practice being held every Thursday evening.

We regret to announce the decease of Madame Alexander Newton, a well-known vocalist some thirty years since, and one of the artists engaged to accompany Jenny Lind (Madame Goldschmidt) on her first concert-tour in this country. Her death occurred on the 22nd of December last, in her sixty-third year.

An Organ Recital of music appropriate to Christmas was given by Mr. Charles J. Frost, Mus. Bac., Cantab., at the Wesleyan Church, College Park, Lewisham, on the 4th ult. The programme was carefully selected, and included several vocal pieces, well sung by Miss Eva Thompson.

THE programme of the Sacred Harmonic Society's Concert at St. James's Hall on Friday evening next, the 3rd inst., comprises Handel's "Zadock the Priest," Gounod's "Messe Solennelle," and Beethoven's "Mount of Olives."

THE Annual Festival of the Lay Helpers' Association will take place in St. Paul's Cathedral on Monday evening, the 20th inst. The Magnificat and Nunc dimittis will be Dr. Stainer's "Irregular Chant" setting (No. 1), and Schubert's "Song of Miriam" is to form the Anthem.

The Madrigal Society has offered two prizes, of ten and five pounds respectively, for the best and second best Madrigals, to be written in the style of the seventeenth century. The Madrigals must be sent in by April 15, and the award of the judges will be made known in June.

The Special Lenten Services, which have for several years past been held at St. Anne's, Soho, will be continued this year every Friday evening during Lent, at 8 o'clock, and on Good Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

MENDELSSOHN'S "Hymn of Praise" and Rossini's "Stabat Mater" will be performed at the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society's next Concert on Wednesday evening, the 8th inst.

HOFMANN'S Cantata "Cinderella" will be performed, for the first time in London, by the Tufnell Park Choral Society, under the direction of Mr. W. H. Thomas, on the 2nd inst.

THE organ at the Bow and Bromley Institute is, we are informed, under reconstruction, and will not be completed until about the 7th inst. Meanwhile pianoforte and string Recitals have been successfully given.

We understand that M. Gounod has received the command of Her Majesty to compose a March in honour of the approaching marriage of H.R.H the Duke of Albany.

THE subscription for the "Nibelungen" performances at Her Majesty's Theatre next May already amounts to more than £3,500, without reckoning any "property seats."

ALL matter and advertisements for the March number should reach us not later than the 21st inst., as the short month obliges us to go to press earlier than usual.

REVIEWS.

Handlexikon der Tonkunst. Herausgegeben von Dt. August Reissmann. [Berlin: Robert Oppenheim, 1882.]

THIS is an abridged edition of Dr. Reissmann's elaborate and necessarily expensive work entitied Conversations-Lexikon "—much esteemed by all musicians intention, therefore, of the editor to present " in the most concise form" (we are quoting from the preface) "all the results of a ten-years' task on the part of the most prominent musical writers of the present day, as represented in the larger work," ought certainly to command the earnest support of both amateur and professional musicians. Such a work would undoubtedly meet the requirements of at least the vast majority of the first-named constituents of the musical community, inasmuch as it would be (again quoting the words of the preface) "a real handbook, a truly reliable guide in the far-extending field of the musical art. We have spoken thus far in conditional terms, and should be glad to be able to follow up our propositions by positive praise of the manner in which Dr. Reissmann has acquitted himself of his self-imposed and by no means easy task. Unfortunately, we are unable to do this. Abridgments-and especially such as involve the compressing of the matter contained in eleven volumes into a single one-require the exercise of an exceptional amount of judgment and patient care on the part of an author; and if Dr. Reissmann has given abundant proof of the possession of both these qualities in his former works, he has but imperfectly exer. cised them in the present instance. His " Handlexikon, in fact, bears every trace of having been hastily compiled, without any fixed plan as to the proportionate treatment of the various subjects, and is therefore teeming with anomalies, omissions, and, what is worse, inaccuracies. Or how shall we otherwise explain the fact-referring to the first-named category—that while to Mendelssohn ten columns are devoted, Beethoven only occupies three, Wagner four, and Brahms is just alluded to in the space of less than half a column? Nor are these incongruites atoned for by a reference to the existing standard biographies of individual composers; the handbook alone must remain, as far as its readers are concerned, the "reliable guide in the far-extending field of musical art." In the chapter of omissions so many names might be quoted of composers of merit, both past and present, that we must confine ourselves to the mention of a few which we select at random. Thus among English musicians we look in vain for Sir Henry Bishop, Barnett, Cowen, Villiers Stanford, and many others equally deserving of recognition. Among foreign composers we miss the names of E. Reyer, B. Godard, A. Dvorák, Sgambati, &c. And this in a work which has professedly "curtailed the notices concerning the older masters in order to gain more space for those of the present day." As regards the inaccuracies to which we have alluded, they are such either by implication—as in the case of Charles Lamoureux, of whom it is said (in 1882) "he is now the principal conductor at the Grand-Opéra," when as a matter of fact he ceased to hold that position after the resignation of the former director, M. Halanzier-or by direct commission. stance of the latter we may cite the word "Dactylus," which is defined as "a metrical foot, consisting of a short syllable followed by two long ones," the reverse, of course, being the truth. Such mistakes may be unfortunate, but they certainly bear out our assertion that the work under notice has been hastily got up, and imperfectly revised. For the information of the German readers of the volume we may add that the English denomination for an eighth-note is "quaver," and that the words "fiddle-faddle," however expressive in English, do not by any means constitute "another term for music" in this country, as the "Handlexikon" will have it.

If we say, in conclusion, that there is much that is excellent and reliable to be found in Dr. Reissmann's handbook, especially in those articles dealing with the technical and historical development of our art, or with abstract conceptions, such as "Romantik," &c., we are conscious of bestowing a doubtful praise upon a work wherein inaccuracies, even in minor points and details, should be rare

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exceptions. There can be no doubt, however, that the shortcomings we have pointed out, and which might easily have been multiplied, could be speedily reduced to a minimum by a careful revision, and that by such means the "Handlexikon," which is printed in small but conspicuously von Dr. dear type, would render absolute its intended usefulness, laborate which at present, for want of such proper revision, is at alisches any rate but a relative one.

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The Great Musicians. Edited by Francis Hueffer. Purcell. By William H. Cummings. [Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington.]

As Mr. Cummings truly says in his preface, the person who undertakes to write a life of Purcell is placed at a who undertakes to white a first of affects is placed at the officer of the many who might have put upon record accurate details of the composer's career—more especially Sir John Hawkins and Burney—have most unaccountably, either through indifference or culpable neglect, allowed the facts which were in their lifetime accessible to pass into oblivion. To gather up the loose fragments on this interesting subject, however, and to correct numerous misstatements relating to the life of England's representative composer, no man is more competent than the author of the present book, which assuredly will form one of the most valuable of the series of biogaphies of the great creative musical artists of the world. The father of Henry Purcell was a gentleman of the Chapel Royal, and in that capacity sang at the coronation of Charles II. He was afterwards appointed a "singing man" of Westminster Abbey, master of the chorister-boys of that church, and music-copyist of the Abbey, "at that time," as Mr. Cummings reminds us, "a very honourable and important position, in consequence of the wholesale destruction of service-books which had taken place during the Commonwealth." The young composer (who was born in 1658), therefore, not only inherited the musical faculty from his father, but probably was indebted to him for much of his early instruction in the art. Amongst the many errors corrected by Mr. Cummings in the course of the volume is that which connects the name of Matthew Locke with the music to "Macbeth." No doubt—as with "Weber's Last Waltz," which we now know was composed by Reissiger-the truth might have been known long ago; but, as nobody thought the subject worth investigation, the item "Locke's Music to Macbeth" was placed for years, and indeed is even now placed, in our programmes as a mere matter of course. Apart from the internal evidence of the music itself, we have now the authority of Mr. Cummings for assigning the composition to Purcell, for he tells us that a copy of the score in the composer's youthful hand is in his own library, "that many old MS. copies of the music have his name attached as composer; and that he was entitled to the credit of it was believed by Dr. William Hayes, Dr. Philip Hayes, Dr. Arnold, and many other eminent musicians." Another important misstatement, made by Hawkins and Burney, is that Purcell was elected organist of Westminster Abbey at the age of eighteen. It is now proved that Dr. Blow resigned this appointment in favour of the young composer in 1680, and thus it was not until he was twenty-two that Purcell obtained this distinguished position. Considering how highly the composer's numerous works were esteemed during his lifetime, their comparative neglect in after years can only be accounted for by the fact of English music being eclipsed by the fashionable mania for works of the Italian school, the "incredible graces" of which, unforunately, were occasionally copied by Purcell in deference to the growing taste of the day. We are now, however, apidly recovering from this Italian fever; and, as music of all other countries is freely admitted and admired, it is more than probable that the produce of our own country will again find favour and be restored to the high place it formerly occupied. The author of this book modestly says: "My hope is that this little work may be the forerunner of other Purcell studies, in which it will be possible to give further details respecting Purcell's ancestry, descendants and family, and also to say something more of his noteworthy contemporaries and pupils." So indefatigable,

thanks of all Purcell lovers are due to Mr. Cummings for the zeal he has displayed in a cause which we know he has so much at heart.

Miniatures pour le Piano. Books I., II., III. Gavotte pour Piano.

Composées par Oliver King. [Novello, Ewer and Co.]

THE young composer of these works may be congratuated upon a distinct advance, because they show that he is learning and profiting by the lesson which experience teaches. Though marked by great talent, some of his earlier productions displayed the effusiveness, contempt of difficulties, and vagueness of expression natural to youth when dominated by a delightful feeling of power. In the pieces before us we see greater conciseness, far more selfrestraint, and fuller cognisance of conditions against which it is vain for anything short of the greatest genius to rebel. Mr. King will doubtless learn his lesson still more as time goes on, and become fully alive to the often ignored yet always important truth that a creative artist shows his power almost as much in what he declines to do as in what he does. The first of the three books of "Miniatures" contains a Seguidilla, Romance, Canon, and Mazurka, in all of which both amateur and connoisseur will find plenty to admire. The Seguidilla is, perhaps, destined to greatest popularity, because at once simple in structure and pleasing in effect. With lovers of contrapuntal music the Canon will, of course, have interest, and those who like a piece ingeniously elaborated and somewhat novel in character cannot do better than turn their attention to the Mazurka. In the second book we have a Reverie, Aubade, Idyl, and Menuet, of which the Aubade is likely to be most often heard in drawingrooms. It is a pretty trifle, full of character. In the Reverie Mr. King indulges his polyphonic taste a little more, perhaps, than is desirable, since the ear soon wearies of involved themes from a single instrument incapable of distinguishing them by varieties of timbre. The Idyl is fanciful and pleasing, and the Menuet, like the Mazurka, illustrates the composer's tendency to develop the old dance forms till their character runs some risk of nonidentification. The third book excites a special interest because containing pieces avowedly in imitation of the composers Grieg, Henselt, Heller, and Liszt. This kind of work, as far as its outward form goes, is neither the highest nor the most difficult, but Mr. King shows that he has caught something of the spirit of his subject. The resemblance in this subtle respect, as well as in form, is often striking and ingenious. The Gavotte is a very elaborate thing of its kind, only possible to players of some capacity, who will find interest in mastering its pages. Looking at the works as a whole, it is impossible to deny that Mr. King promises to become one of our best com-posers for the "household instrument."

Twenty Songs for a Mezzo-Soprano Voice. With Pianoforte Accompaniment. Composed by Franz Schubert. The English version by Natalia Macfarren. [Novello, Ewer and Co.]

ALTHOUGH Schubert has recently acquired a world-wide celebrity for works of the highest importance, his songs still rank amongst the choicest specimens of the art; and now that the taste for something beyond "pretty" music is rapidly spreading, the issue of the twenty vocal pieces before us is indeed well-timed. Schubert does not write for the voice alone, but considers his singer as one only of the artists employed, the instrumental part being so intricately woven into the composition as to render a sympathetic pianist as necessary as a sympathetic vocalist for the due rendering of his songs. In illustration of this, we may select from this volume "Know'st thou the land?" "The Summer Waves," "The Maiden's Lament," and, more especially, the charming Barcarole "On the Water," in which, apart from the excessive beauty of both melody and accompaniment, the alternation between the tonic minor and major forms so distinguishing a feature. alluded to these four songs only to call the attention of pianists to the importance of their share in the performance however, have been his researches that we doubt whether of the pieces, but need scarcely say that the whole conmuch can be added to the facts here put forward; and the tents of the volume will be treasured by all mezzo-soprano

singers who can appreciate the highest class of vocal music. In conclusion, we must commend the English version of the verses, which, being undertaken by one who is not only an excellent translator but an excellent vocalist, cannot fail to prove equally acceptable to admirers of the poetry and of the music.

Sonata (in D minor) for the Organ. Composed by James C. Culwick. [Novello, Ewer and Co.]

NOTWITHSTANDING the very large additions made of late by English composers to our stock of original organ music, we must confess that we are sadly in want of compositions of real merit and beauty. We have quantities of what is commonly called clever music, but, with one or two splendid exceptions, how few modern composers have given us works possessing the true ring of genius. The Sonata now under notice is fairly interesting, well worked out, and certainly ranks above mediocrity. In the Moderato Assai, which precedes the Allegro, the chief subject and general working of the Sonata is shadowed forth. The Allegro itself—in D minor—is vigorous, brilliant, and very well designed for a large jetting at Co. the Addant and Dische and Co. large instrument. Of the Andante and Finale we may remark that the subjects of which they are composed, though tolerably interesting, do not contain sufficient beauty or originality to warrant their being employed in an important work of this kind; neither do they increase sufficiently in interest as they are developed. Notwithstanding this, work of this kind; netter do they increase sunctently in interest as they are developed. Notwithstanding this, however, the Sonata, owing to its presenting no great difficulties to the performer, will be found an excellent work for teaching purposes.

Daily Studies and complete Pedal Scales for the Organ. By George Ernest Lake. [Novello, Ewer and Co.]

This little work of five pages is such a distinct gain to the organ student that we commend it without hesitation. To convey to our readers an idea of its real object we cannot do better than quote a few words from the prefatory remarks. After eulogising Dr. Stainer's "Primer" and Mr. Best's "Art of Organ-Playing," the author goes on to say: "It would, however, seem to me that there is still a want of studies, scales, &c., which would suit equally the novice and the more advanced student for daily practice, and which could not be expected in either of the works I have named above. I have hitherto been compelled to select such studies from several "Organ Schools," in imperfect and not always practical forms. order, therefore, to obviate the compulsory use of so many different books, I venture to think that Dr. Stainer's and Mr. Best's books, combined with the following Scales and Exercises, will prove to the earnest student all that is necessary beyond what his own perseverance and industry can supply." We can only add that, in our opinion, these Exercises cannot fail to be beneficial to those who practise them carefully.

The Musical Directory, Annual, and Almanack, 1882. [Rudall, Carte and Co.]

THE thirtieth issue of this Directory retains all the features which have secured for the publication so extensive a sale amongst professors and amateurs of music, The alphabetical list of country professors, in addition to that arranged under the heads of the towns in which they reside, is one amongst the many improvements recently introduced; and we can also speak in high terms of the care now exercised in collecting the large amount of information contained in the work.

FOREIGN NOTES.

Dr. Hans von Bülow gave a series of six most interesting concerts with his Meiningen orchestra, from the 4th to the 9th ult., at Berlin, of which we render a detailed account in another part of our present issue. On the 16th ult. another cyclus of three evenings devoted to works by Beethoven was inaugurated by the indefatigable pianist-conductor at the Berlin Skating-Rink, in the presence of some two thousand listeners, every available seat having been filled. The demonstrations of enthusiasm were similar to those on the preceding occasions, although the acoustic conditions of the locality are less favourable porary every success.

than those of the hall of the Singakademie, where the former concerts were held. We refer our readers to the programmes of the three additional concerts given at the foot of these notes.

At the Berlin Opera an obsolete work by Auber, entitled "Carlo Broschi," was revived last month with some success

Madame Albani's success during her recent appearance in a series of characters at the Royal Opera of Berlin has been most complete; her impersonation of Elsa, in "Lohen. o be er grin" (which she sang in German), having more especially aroused general admiration. The diva received the honour of a private interview with the imperial family, and on the day following was presented with a magnificent vase, the gift of the Empress, in recognition of her talent.

Anton Rubinstein's fifth Symphony was performed for the first time at the Leipzig Gewandhaus on the 12th ult., under the personal direction of the composer, whose work was most enthusiastically received. Rubinstein thereupon played three pianoforte pieces by way of acknowledging his thanks to the audience. The eminent pianist was announced to give several concerts at Paris near the end

of last month.

The first performance of a grand oratorio by Joachim Raff, entitled "Weltende, Gericht, Neue Welt" (The End of the World, The Judgment, The New World), took place, after most careful preparation, at Weimar, on the 17th ult. The text of the new work is founded upon the Book of Revelation.

Wagner's "Lohengrin" was produced for the first time, as the opening piece of the season, at the Teatro alla

Fenice, of Venice, with much success.

The projected performances of Wagner's "Lohengrin" at Paris, under the auspices of Herr Angelo Neumann, are meeting with considerable opposition, and, if not alto-gether abandoned, will at least be delayed beyond the period originally fixed upon. The patriotic French element enters, of course, very largely into the question, there being, moreover, as is well-known, a strong and not altogether unfounded feeling still at work against the composer personally, who has said some hard things of our French neighbours in his day. Still, it is expected that purely artistic motives will prevail, and that the cosmo-politan Parisians will not be deprived, after all, of the enjoyment of the chef-d'æuvre of the reformer.

A subvention of 115,000 francs has been granted by the Town Council of Brussels to the Théâtre de la Monnaie

of that town.

The centenary of the birth of Auber, which occurred on the 29th ult., was to be celebrated in a conspicuous manner at several leading institutions of the French capital. At the Grand-Opéra a special performance of some of the popular composer's works, and of a festival cantata composed by M. Léo Délibes, was announced. At the Opéra-Comique a festival performance was to take place on the following day, as also at the Conservatoire, of which institution Auber was director, he having succeeded Cherubini, in 1842, in that position.

It is rumoured that M. Gounod's next opera will be founded on the legend of "Loreley," and will bear the title of "Loreley, ou la Fée du Rhin." Ballet-action is to form a conspicuous element in the projected new work.

A correspondent writes to us from Milan: "A grand benefit Concert, in aid of the sufferers by the burning of the Ring Theatre of Vienna, was given here on the 16th ult., at the Royal Conservatorio, by the German Choral Quartet Society in union with the Italian Società di Canto Corale, and the Scuole Populari di Canto Corale. The chorus was excellent, especially in the selections from Gounod's Second Mass, which were given with wonderful precision, vigour, and finesse of execution. After this performance Milan may claim a foremost place in choral singing. The sum of 2,000 francs was realised for the charity.

We give the programme of this concert in another column.

Under the title of Archivio Musicale, a fortnightly
musical periodical devoted to the interests of the art in all its branches, has just been established at Naples. journal is most ably supported by both Italian and foreign writers, and is likely to take a leading part in the musical press of Italy. We wish our enterprising young contem-

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centl * C place a here the We have also received the first number of La America Musicale, published in the Spanish language at New York, edited by Dr. Godoy, and that, for the second year of is existence, of Le Passe Temps Musical, edited by MM. s to the n at the Georges Cordonnier and Paul Bilhaud, and issued at Paris.

The winter season of the Teatro Regio of Turin was maugurated with the first performance of Ponchiell's opera "Gioconda," which was most favourably received.

The Museum of the Royal Conservatoire at Brussels is

earance rlin has Lohen. to be enlarged by an addition of Chinese musical instruents. The collection is remarkable for the great variety of instruments represented, and will be the only complete one of specimens of the Chinese instrumental system in

M. Massenet has introduced several Jewish chants into his opera "Hérodiade," shortly to be transferred from Brussels to Paris, among others being "Hosanna" and "Shemang Yisrael." The Belgian clerical press demed for nunces the work as a profanation of scriptural subjects, while the Brussels performances continue to attract rowded audiences.

Franz Schubert's little-known operetta "Die Zwillings-räder" ("The Twin-brothers") is shortly to be per-

formed at the Hoftheater of Vienna.

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(The), took on the on the At the Inperial Opera of Vienna four operatic works simil be added to the répertoire during the present season, six.: Ambroise Thomas's "Françoise de Rimini," Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde," Boito's "Mefistofele," and Verdi's Don Carlos,'

Franz Rummel, the eminent pianoforte virtuoso, making a highly successful concert-tour in Germany. as recently played at one of the Gewandhaus Concerts of eipzig, where he met with the most flattering reception.

An International Exhibition of musical instruments is to be held next year at Berlin, for which the preliminary

managements are already in course of progress.

At a sale of autographs recently held at Berlin, the manuscript of Mozart's Pianoforte Trio in G was sold for the sum of 1,330 marks, and a musical autograph of Meverbeer realised 260 marks, while the original sketches

for Beethoven's Symphony in F only fetched 24 marks.

M. Camille Saint-Saëns will shortly produce his cantata,
"Lyre and Harp," and his "Suite Algérienne" at the

Singakademie of Berlin. Robert Schumann's opera "Genoveva" is in course of reparation at the Dresden Hoftheater, and will be proiced in the course of the present month.

Herr Joachim, the eminent violinist, is just now engaged

pon a concert-tour in Russia.

Carl Brandt, the technical director of the Darmstadt Hoftheater, died in the last week of the past year, at Frankfort, at the age of fifty-nine. Brandt's reputation as he inventor of most of the modern improvements in stage nachinery and scenic contrivances was a European one, his ingenuity being especially displayed in the mounting of Wagner's latest music-dramas, including that of the Nibelungen tetralogy at the Bayreuth Theatre. Previous to his death Brandt had completed the mechanical arrangements for the forthcoming performances of "Parsifal," which are said to be marvels of ingenuity, and furnish mother proof of his inexhaustible technical resources.

At Leipzig died, at the age of forty-six, the famous

ither virtuoso, R. A. Kobatek.

Carl Schneider, once famous as a tenor singer, and for many years afterwards a valued instructor of his art, died at Cologne, on the 3rd ult., at the age of fifty-nine. It was of him Jenny Lind once wrote, "I number him amongst my purest stage-recollections."

Jean Chéret, the excellent scene-painter, died at Paris

on the 6th ult.

The death is also announced, at Paris, of Ferdinand Hérold, late Senator and Prefect of the Seine Department, a son of the composer of "Zampa." Although no musician bimself, M. Hérold took a lively interest in all matters tonnected with the art; and to him is owing, among other institutions, that of the Grand Prix de Musique of Paris.

We subjoin, as usual, the programmes of concerts* recently given at some of the leading institutions abroad :-

Paris.—Conservatoire (January 8); Symphony in B flat (Beethoven); Les Béatitudes (C. Franck); Overture, "Fingal's Cave" (Mendelsschn); Choruses from "Cosi fan Tutte" (Mozard); Symphony in G, No. 20 (Haydn). Concert Populaire (January 8); Symphony, C major (Beethoven); "Le Soir" (Goundo); Concerto Symphonique for pianoforte (Litolfi); Fragment from "Hérodiade" (Massenet); Larghetto (Mozart); Fragments from "Annhäuser" (Wagner). Châtelet Concert (January 8); Symphony, C major (Beethoven); Jeux d'Enfants (Bizet); Second Rhapsody (Liszt); Coverture, "Marfied" (Schumann); Le Rouet d'Omphale "(Saint-Saëns); "Ride of the Valkyries" (Wagner). Châtelet Concert (January 15): "Reformation" Symphony (Mendelssohn); Overture, "Artevelde" (Guiraud); Serenade (Beethoven); Violoncello pieces (Godard); Last Rhapsody (Liszt). Concert Populaire (January 15): Symphony in A (Beethoven); Symphonie-Ballet (Godard); Violin pieces (R. Wagner); Serenade (Haydn); Overture, "Guillaume Tell" (Rossini). Conservatoire (January 22): Symphony in C (Schumann); La Priere du Marin et du Soir (E. del Cavairere; Overture, "Coriolan" (Beethoven); Fragments from "La Damnation de Fauxt" (Berlioz). Marche Hongoise (Berlioz). Concert Populaire (January 22): Historical Concert films (Berlioz). Concert Populaire (January 23): Historical Concert (Berlioz). Symphony, "La Chasse" (Gousec); Symphony, (Playdn); Fragments from "Midsummer Night's Dream "(Mendelssohn); Finale of Choral Symphony (Beethoven). Châtelet Concert (January 22): Overture, "Melusine" (Mendelssohn); Sciens Pittoresques (Massent); Sciencert Air (Mozart); Symphonie Funder et Triomphale (Berioz); March, "Tamhäuser" "(Wagner).

Leipzig, -Gewandhaus Concert (January 12): Overture, "Analveon" (Cherubmi); Air, "Iphigenia in Tauris" (Glucki; Pianoforte Concerto. Leipzig, -Gewandhaus Concert (January 15): Overture, "Faust" (Spohr); Scene and Air from "Faust" (Spohr); Adagio; Siciliano, and Aliegro for flute (Bach; Overture, "Helridses" (Mendelssohn); Symphony, Concert of flute (Bach); Symphony, "Pas

(Wagner).

Baltimore.—Peabody Institute (December 3): String Quartet, Op.

11 (Tschaikowsky); Songs (R. Franz); Sonata for pianoforte and
violoncello, Op. 38 (Brahms). Peabody Institute (December 10):

String Quartet, Op. 44, No. 1 (Mendelssohn; Air and Arioso from
"St. Paul" (Mendelssohn); Vocal Duets (E. Lassen); Pianoforte
This Op. (El Volkeran). Trio, Op. 3 (R. Volkmann).

CORRESPONDENCE.

MALE-VOICE CHOIRS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,-My attention has been drawn to Mr. J. Cantor's while admitting the truth of much that he says as to the neglect of this branch of the musical art, I cannot allow his statement (so far as Liverpool is concerned) to pass unchallenged.

It is well known that, in addition to the two private Glee Clubs referred to in his communication, there is in very healthy existence a Society called the "Liverpool Vocalists' Union," consisting of twenty-four male voices, which meets once a week (oftener if necessary) for the

^{*} Contributions intended for this column should indicate clearly the place and date of performance, as otherwise they cannot be inserted.

practice solely of male-voice music. established in 1872, is governed by a strict code of rules and an annually elected committee, and possesses a library of some 150 pieces (constantly increasing), consisting of glees, ancient and modern, madrigals, part-songs, and choruses, sacred and secular, all of which are sung unaccompanied.

During its existence several honours have been won, and over 200 appearances have been made by this Union in London and other large towns, which you will admit is

fair work

In addition to the Vocalists' Union there are several quartet parties, viz.—the "Orpheus" (sixteen years old), '&c., and Mr. Cantor has also a double quartet " Liver,

party, though of very recent existence. I will also add that, in 1873, I think, Liverpool sent up a representative choir of eighty male voices to the Crystal Palace which brought away the first prize of £50 against all comers. I think your readers will agree with me that the art is not so much neglected as Mr. Cantor would make them believe—at least, as far as Liverpool is concerned.

I am, your obedient servant, HUGH SHIMMIN, Hon, Sec.

Liverpool, January 19, 1882.

AN ORGANIST'S GRIEVANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—There can scarcely be but one reply, as it appears to me, to the question put by a "London Organist," in his now somewhat altered position. The entire control of the music reverts naturally into the hands of the newly appointed choirmaster, otherwise the appointment of such an agent is simply meaningless; and the organist should now perform his special function subject to the direction of the choirmaster, in the same manner as the members of the choir are expected to do.

I am connected with a church where the two posts referred to have lately been divided by the appointment of a choirmaster, and, so far, with the most satisfactory results, both as regards the music and the esprit de corps

of the choir.

I may also add that the many years' experience I have had of choir work, &c., leads me to entertain an opinion exactly the reverse of that expressed by a "London Organist" at the close of his letter; and I apprehend that the explanation of the two posts being generally combined is mostly to be traced to one of finance. CHOIR.

THE CURIOSITIES OF CRITICISM.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

-I send you the inclosed criticism on a concert which I have found in a local paper, thinking it might perhaps, be worthy of a place in your "Curiosities of Criticism": "... Mention should be made of one of the most attractive instrumental pieces on the programme, 'Little May,' composed by the conductor himself. this piece several parts were attractive for their resemblance to snatches from the standard works of some of the greatest composers; at one period the stringed instruments give a low murmur of cadence, and anon the whole force of the band unites to give power to the finale, which is full of vigour, exploding in a crash of an instrumental tempest. .

As this might interest many of your readers, I hope you will allow it a little space in your correspondence.

I am, sir, yours truly,

FRANCIS W. GALPIN.

Trinity College, Cambridge, Jan. 20, 1882.

SCARCITY OF ALTO VOICES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,-In the article on "Male-Voice Choirs" inserted in THE MUSICAL TIMES for January, a remark is made as

to the unhappy scarcity of altos.

Undoubtedly such is the truth, but I think a remedy might be found by endeavouring to offer more encouragement towards cultivating this voice. Although stronger

This Union was than the contralto voice, the latter is always chosen in our choral societies before an alto, in rendering an occasional quartet.

Alto vocalists are never heard at ballad concerts, simply because there are no songs specially written for them Let some of our song-writers try the experiment of composing for them, and watch the result. An alto's scope so limited that many, for the sake of appearing at concerts as soloists, sing in their lower (generally baritone) voice. thus invariably deteriorating, and often killing, their falsetto register.

Singing-masters, too, might study the production of the alto voice a little more, for as a rule they know nothing With a little attention to the matter, I have no doubt but that the number of good alto singers might be largely increased .- I am, yours, &c.,

January 3, 1882.

AN ALTO

THE FIRST DULCIANA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,-Allow me to thank Mr. Hopkins for his letter on this subject.

Mr. Edwards and I have since carefully examined the stop, when I found, to my surprise, that, whereas all the flute-pipes have their names marked on them in German characters, the dulciana is not so marked.

I consider this a proof that Mr. Hopkins is right in his conjecture, and that our dulciana is a later addition to our

organ .- Yours faithfully,

EDWIN J. CROW.

Ripon, December 21, 1881.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

. Notices of concerts, and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance.

Our correspondents will oblige by writing all names as clearly as possible, as we cannot be responsible for any mistakes that may occur. Correspondents are informed that their names and addresses must accompany all communications.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

savergore, with an well to retain copies.

Notice is sent to all Subscribers whose payment (in advance) is enhanted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriptions not renewed. We again remind those who are disappointed in obtaining back numbers that, although the music is always left in stock, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current sale.

Abschied.—We cannot in this journal recommend any particula "system." You must take your own choice. To "X.Y.Z.'s communication the same answer will apply.

STUDENT:-You should apply to the Professor of Music at the University, who will afford you all necessary information.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF COUNTRY NEWS.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary, as all the notices are either collated from the local papers or supplied to us by correspondents.

ABERDEEN.—The Choral Union gave an excellent performance of The Messiah on the 4th ult. The solo vocalists were Miss Annie Marriott, Miss Hope Gienn, Mr. Joseph Mans, and Mr. Burgon. Mr. A. F. Kae led the band, Mr. John Kirby conducted, and Mr. W. Morrison presided at the organ.

MOTISON presides at the organ,
ABINGODN.—The Musical Association gave The Messiah on December 21, assisted by an excellent band. The principal vocalists were
Miss Marianne Fenna, Miss Jeanie Rosse, Mr. Hodgson, and Mr.
Bonell. The solos were well rendered, and the choruses sung with
spirit and decision. Mr. Frederick K. Couldrey conducted.

ALTON.—The members of the Choral Society gave their first Concert for the season, at the Assembly Rooms, on the 12th ult. The first part consisted of a selection from Judas Maccabaus, and the second was miscellaneous. The soloists were Miss Jessie Jones, Mr. Redern Hollins, and Mr. Pennel Cross, vocalists; and Mr. Edmund Wool-house, violonello—all of whom were highly satisactory. The choir, which numbered about seventy voices, sang admirably. The accompanients in Market was played on the proportion by Mr. I. Beaver. which numbered about seventy voices, sang admirably. The accompaniments in Judas were played on the pianoforte by Mr. L. Reeves, and on the harmonium, by Mr. H. Shepherd, supplemented by a local orchestra, led by Mr. C. G. Halliday. Miss Bila Smith accompanied the songs, &c., in the second part, and Mr. H. Piggott conducted.

the songs, &c., in the second part, and Mr. H. Piggott conducted.

ARMAGH.—Mr. W. G. Wood and Mr. Albert McGuckin gave a very
successful Concert, on the 9th ult., assisted by Miss Mary Russell,
Mr. G. F. Townley, vocalists; Mr. C. Wood, violoncello; and Dr.
Marks, pianoforte. Mr. W. G. Wood gave an excellent rendering of
the "Moonlight" Sonata, Mendelssohn's Prelude and Fugue in E
minor, and also of some compositions of his own. The singing of
Mr. McGuckin, Miss Mary Russell, and Mr. G. F. Townley was much
appreciated, Dr. Marks was an able accompanist.

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vocal Di BACUP.—On the 21st ult. a successful Concert was given in the Mechanics' Hall, the services of the Rochdale Amateur Orchestral Sciety being secured for the occasion. The principal vocalists were Miss Hardman and Mr. Dumville; solo violin, Mr. H. Rothwell; planist and accompanist, Mr. F. J. Hill. Mr. J. P. Fielden was the Conductor, and Mr. H. Sedgwick led the band.

BELFAST .- A Ballad Concert was given in the Ulster Hall on Friday, Belfast.—A Ballad Concert was given in the Ulster Hall on Friday, December 30. The first part consisted of selections from Maritana, excellently sung by Miss Perry, Miss Damian, Mr. McGuckin, and Mr. Ludwig. M. Rudersdorff and Herr Leipold contributed a pianofite and violoncello duet; Mr. B. Hobson Carroll played some of the pianoforte accompaniments, and Herr Werner presided at the organ.

BIRMINGHAM.—At the Popular Concerts of the Musical Association, on the 15th ult., the Festival Choral Society assisted, when Haydn's Creation was performed. The principal vocalists were Miss Heley My Stark, Mr. Young, and Mr. Bingley Shaw. Mr. Stockley was an able Conductor, and Mr. Stimpson accompanied with his usual skill.

BLACKBURN.—A performance of The Messiah, in connection with Mr. Jones's Popular Concerts, was given in the Exchange on Christmas Eve. The principal vocalists were Miss H. Tomliuson, Madame Florence Winn, Mr. T. Buckland, and Mr. Rickard. Mr. J. L. Goodwin let the band, Mr. Charles Ford played the tumpet obbligato, and Mr. G. Mellor conducted. The choruses were very well rendered.

BRINHAM.—A very successful Concert was given in the Temperance Hall by the Choral Society on Thursday, December 20. The first part of the programme consisted of choruses from The Messiad, and the seen the vocalists. The Rev. P. A. Highmore conducted, and Mr. C. Fir-Loam was siscolaneous.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—The first Concert of the Choral Society was given in the Corn Exchange on the 10th ult., on which occasion Haydn's Creation was successfully performed. The band and choir combered 130 performers, and, considering the Society has been only three months in existence, the choruses were rendered with much precision. The principal vocalists were Miss Agnes Larkcom, Mr. Edward Dalzell, and Mr. R. Hilton, and the Conductor was Mr. T. B.

CHESTREFIELD.—The Choral Society gave a performance of Han-tel's Messiah in the Stephenson Memorial Hall on December 28. The soloists were Miss Gatherine Pickering, Miss A. Shaw, Mr. T. Cooper, Mr. E. Slack and Mr. Wardle. Mr. Wallhead led the band, and Mr. H. N. Biggin conducted.

CHICHESTER.—Mr. Seymour Kelly gave his annual Concert on the mh ult. The artists were Miss Marian M'Kenzie, Miss Alice Osmond, Messrs, Walker, C. W. Kelly, and C. G. Marchant (Organist of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin), whose pianoforte solos were highly appreciated.

CLIPTON.—On Thursday, the 12th ult., the Bristol Madrigal Society gave their forty-eighth (annual) Ladies' night, at the Victoria Rooms, which was a great success. A well-selected programme was excelently rendered under the conductorship of Mr. D. W. Rootham.

CONGLETON.—On December 22 Handel's Messiah was given by the Choral Society in the Town Hall under the Conductorship of Mr. Ge., The choir numbered about eighty voices, and the band, led by Mr. H. Nuttall, comprised over twenty performers. The principal vocalists were Mrs. Hutchinson, Miss Wakefield, Mr. H. Latham, the Fev. J. T. Penrose, and Mr. H. Hankinson. The obbligato to "The trumpet shall sound" was played by Mr. Kelly, and Mr. A. Barlow presided at the American organ.

COVENTRY.—On the 5th ult., at the Corn Exchange, the Musical Society gave a performance of J. F. Barnett's Cantain, The Ancient Mariner, followed by a miscellaneous selection. The principal wealists were Mdlle, José Sherrington, Mrs. Sharpe, Mr. Mason and Mr. Thurley Beale. Haydn's Symphony in D concluded the Concert, which was conducted by Mr. Trickett.

which was conducted by Mr. Trickett.

CREWE.—The Philharmonic Society gave the second Concert of the present season in the Town Hall on the 17th ult. The Messi-th was the work selected for performance, the principal vocalists being Miss Annie Marriott, Miss Helen D'Alton, Mr. Harper Kearton, and Mr. Robert Hilton, all of whom were highly satisfactory. The orchestra under the leadership of Mr. Hamer Hayes) and choir were largely augmented. The choruses on the whole were well rendered, and the obbligate to "The trumper shall sound," played on the cornet by Mr. Bell, was a feature in the performance. A word of praise is due to the Conductor, Mr. James, for the manner in which he discharged his duties; also to Mr. G. Young for his services at the harmonium.

Delph.—The members of the Saddleworth Amateur Choral Society gave their annual performance of Handel's Messiah on Christmas Eve, in the Wesleyan school, the principal vocalists being Miss Bessie Holt, Miss Louisa Bowmont, Mr. R. L. Whittaker, and Mr. Howard Lees. Mr. F. T. Whitehead conducted.

DINGWALL.—The Musical Association gave its first Concert this season on Friday evening, the 20th ult, before a large and appreciative audience. The programme consisted of selections of vocal and instruental music of a popular character, including Romberg's Toy Symphony; and a small orchestra contributed to the success of the Concert. The pianoforte accompaniments were admirably rendered by Miss Ross, whose solo on the same instrument was much appreciated. Miss Chisholm ably presided at the organ. Mr. Roddie conducted.

DUNDEE.—The members of the Harmonic Society gave their annual performance of The Messiah, in the Kinnaird Hall, on December 27. The orchestra, principally composed of local amateurs, was very efficient. Mr. Cole led and Mr. Styles presided at the organ. The solo vocalists were Miss A. Dawson, Miss Amy Ronayne, Mr. H. Parratt, and Mr. A. McCall. Mr. S. C. Hirst conducted.

large audience The first part of the programmeconsisted of Cowen's Cantata The Rose Maiden. The solos were well sung by Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Windsor, Miss Geen, the Rev. R. Utten Todd, the Rev. J. The Second part of the programme, which was miscellaneous, commenced with an excellent rendering of Beethoven's Symphony, No. 1, by the orchestra. Another feature in the second part was the performance of a new "Scena Drammatica e Duo," composed by the Conductor, and well sung by Miss Uppington and Miss Geen. The leader of the band was Mr. O. Sadler; Miss Uppington and Mrs. West presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. John Warriner, Organist of the Parish Church, conducted.

EDINBURGH.—Sir Herbert Oakeley's Recital in the Class Room on the 12th ult, was fully attended; and the programme, which was, as usual, of the highest interest, afforded the utmost pleasure to the audience. A special feature in the selection was Bach's well-known fugue on the letters of his name.

ELTON.—A miscellaneous Concert was given in the Conservative Hall by the St. Stephen's Choir, on the right ult. The first part consisted of songs and glees, which were warmly received, and for the second part Sullivan's Cox and Box was performed. The work was exceedingly well rendered by Messrs. E. Kelly, J. Simpson, and T. Boom. Mr. Walter B. Bell was the pianist, and Mr. Albert Bell conducted.

Falmouth.—A Concert was given on the 4th ult, in aid of the widows and orphans of the crew of the "Jackal" steamer, recently lost on the Cornish coast. The principal artists were Miss Clara Dowle, the Revs. J. S. Flynn and W. C. Mackey, Miss F. Mitchell, Miss C. Pootheroe-Smith, Mr. A. L. Wills, Mr. C. G. Grylls, Mr. John Mead, and Mr. Robinson, Conductor. The result, both musically and financially was highly supersystem. cially, was highly successful.

FinchLex.—A successful Concert was given by the Choral Society on Tuesday evening, the 24th ult., at the National Schools. The first part of the programme comprised Macfarren's May Day, which was well rendered, the solo being sung by Miss Jessie Koyd. The second part consisted of part-songs, vocal solos by Mr. H. Parkin, solo pianorte (Mr. A. A. Yeatman), and a violin solo. Mr. A. A. Yeatman was

Glasgow.—On the 13th ult., Dr. Spark, of Leeds, gave an interesting Matinee in the saloon of Messrs. J. Muir Wood and Co. With the idea of assisting in the preservation of the many favourite glees for men's voices, Dr. Spark has organised a quartet for the purpose of bringing these compositions prominently before the public; and the precessing on this occasion fully proved the excellent result of his labours in the cause. At the close of the performance Mr. James Richardson moved a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Spark and his culleagues.

GRANGE.—On Monday the 16th ult., a Concert was given in the Institute by the Choral Society. The first part of the programme consisted of Gade's Cantata The Fin-King, which was well rendered. The principal singers were Miss H. Tomlinson, Mrs. M. Riley, and Mr. Higginson. Mr. E. Sewell, M.A., conducted. The second part of the programme was miscellaneous.

Grantham.—On December 28 The Messian was successfully performed by the Amateur Vocal Saciety. The soloists were Miss Helen M. Stark, Miss J. M. Ward, Mr. Dunkerton, and Mr. A. Backer. "The accompaniments were played by Mr. T. J. Merris's orchestra: Conductor, Mr. H. P. Linkerson.

ductor, Mr. H. P. Hekterson.

Great Marklow - Or the 12th btr, the Choral Society gave a very successful performance of Haydn's Oratorio The Creation, assisted by Miss Cockburn, Mr. A. L. Fryer, and Mr. Henry Cross. Great praise is due to the Conductor (Mr. Chaundy), for the manner in which his choir proved its efficiency on the occasion. "The heavens are telling," "Achieved," and "Sing the Lord" being especially well rendered, The performance was greatly enhanced by the fine orchestra which included some of the best instrumentalists from Oxford.

GRLENOCK.—The Choral Society held its Annual New Year's Concert at the Town Hall on Monday, the 2nd ult., when Handel's Messiah was given, with Miss Laura Smart, Madame Marie Jernau, Mr. G. Howard Welch, and Mr. Fred. Gordon as vocalists; all of Mr. Josef Cantor's Concert Company. Mr. Cole ably led the orchestra, Mr. Cantor accompanied the recitatives, and Mr. Middleton conducted. The performance was successful throughout.

HANLEY.—The members of the Hanley and Shelton Philharmonic Society gave their annual performance of The Messiah on Thursday, the 5th ult., in the Imperial Circus, which was crowded in every part. The solo vocalists were Miss Mary Davies, Miss Orridge, Mr. H. Guy, and Mr. F. King; Mr. F. Ward, principal violin, and Mr. Robinson, solo trumpet. The performance was in every respect highly successful.

HERTFORD.—On Christmas Day the Services at St. Andrew's Church commenced with a celebration of the Holy Communion, followed by full choral Matins, and a second celebration. The psalms were sung to Anglican chants by Elvey, Havergal, and Holmes; the Te Deum was Hopkins in G: Kyrie, Mendelssohn in A. In the afternoon the special service consisted of the Litany, anthem, "Sing, O heavens" (18, Tours), and several carols; there was also full choral evensous. Mr. C. E. Holmes, Organist and Choirmaster, presided at the organ.

Higham.—A successful Concert was given on the 5th ult., the principal vocalists being Miss Lucia Carreras, Miss Ada Earee, Miss Pyson, Messrs, E. Tietkens, W. E. Gregory, and R. T. Haines. The instrumentalists were Miss Minnie Earee (pianoforte), Miss Ada Borrow and Dr. Henry (violins), and Miss E. M. Borrow (violoncello). The Conductor was the Rev. W. Borrow.

vocalists were Miss A. Dawson, Miss Amy Ronayne, Mr. H. Patratt, and Mr. A. McCall. Mr. S. C. Hirst conducted.

HORNINGSHAM.—On Tuesday, December 27, a Concert was given by Mr. O. A. Mansfield in the British Schoolroom. The principal feature of the programme was the pianoforte-playing of Mdlle. Jutz, of gave the first Concert of the season at the Assembly Rooms, before a the Conservatoire, Geneva, who performed several solos, and also

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very Dr ng of ng of assisted in two overtures, arranged for two pianos, harmonium, and violin. The vocalists were Miss Mansfield, Mr. T. Foakes, and Mr. C. Cooper.

Kino's Lynn.—The Philharmonic Society gave the first Concert of the season in the Music Hall on Friday, the 13th ult., before a crowded audience, when Handel's Messiah was performed. The solo portions were well sustained by Miss Jessie Jones, Miss Bertha Alden, Mr. Harper Kearton, and Mr. A. S. Kinnell; and Messrs. W. O. Jones and J. H. Pratt acted as accompanists at the organ and piano. Mr. John Bray, as usual, led the band, and Dr. Horace Hill (who has been assisted by Mr. A. H. Crosse, of Sandringham) very ably conducted throughout.

Kingston.—On the 19th ult. Mr. Falshaw (organist of the Parish Church, Esher) gave an Organ Recital on the fine instrument at All Saints' Church. The programme was well selected, and the pieces excellently rendered.

LAMBOURN.—The Choral Society, which has been reorganised, gave the first of a series of four Concerts on Monday, December 26, in the National Schoolroom, when glees, part-songs, &c., by Calloott, Bishop, Pinsuti, Sydenham, and several vocal solos were very creditably rendered. Mr. Swift, Organist of St. Michael's, Lambourn, presided at the piano, and the vicar, the Rev. J. Edgell, conducted.

LEAMINGTON.—The Choral Society gave its first Concert on Friday, the r3th ult., in the Public Hall, Windsor Street, on behalf of the Warneford Hospital, and the Hospital for Incurables. The Society was represented by about thirty voices, and the solo vocalists were Miss Clara Montague, the Rev. A. Sewell, Mr. Richard Clarke, and Mr. Piercy Watson. The principal items were Mr. Edmund Rogers's Cantatas, The Bridal Lay and Blue Beard. Mr. E. F. Hall contributed an effective harp solo, and joined with Mr. C. S. Birch in a duet with the piano, the latter playing as a solo, "Silver Birch," a new Gavotte by Mr. Piercy Watson.

Lewes.—On Sunday, the 1st ult., the services at St. Anne's Church were fully choral. The anthem was well rendered by members of the choir, conducted by Mr. Scammell. At the conclusion of the evening service Mr. P. J. Starnes, the Organist, gave a Recital.

LIMERICK.—On Thursday evening, December 29, the Musical Society gave the second Concert of the present session. The programme included Leslie's Frist Christmas Morn, Adeste Fudles, and the first part of The Messiah. The band and chorus numbered 140. Mr. Gibbons presided at the organ, and Dr. Smith conducted.

LISKEARD.—The choir and congregation of the Wesleyan Chapel met on the 6th ult. in the Masonic Hall, and presented Mr. J. Mathew with a handsome gilt and porcelain clock, with candelabra to match. A silver plate attached bore the following inscription: "Presented to Mr. John Matthews by members of the choir and congregation of the Wesleyan Chapel, Liskeard, in appreciation of his able and honorary services as Organist during the past eight years. December, 1851."

Londonderry.—On Christmas Eve there was a special service in the Cathedral, during which the first part of *The Messiah* and the "Hadelrigh" Chous were sung. The choruses were excellently giver, the parts being well follanced. The principal vocalists were Master Henry Phillips, Messes, K. Combes, R. Jores, E. Bickley, and Pemigneway. The Organist of the Cathedra, Mr. D. C. Jones, ably presided at the organ.

presided at the organ.

Macclessfully—On Friday evening, the 13th ult., a Concert took place at Parlaide Arylam. The programme comprised "Autumn" and "Winter" from Haydn's Seasons, the soles being well sung by Mrs. Scaresprook, Mrs. Coates, Dr. Deas, and Messrs. Wallace and Young, all of whom, with the exception of the last-named gentieman, are members of the Asylum staff. The Asylum band and choir were augmented by a few local amateurs. The second part consisted of a selection of songs, glees, &c., in which Mr. C. Seal, Mus. Bac., Oxon., Mr. Latham, and Miss Cartwright were the principal performers. Mr. Hawkins conducted, and Mr. Coates presided at the organ.

MILFORD HAVEN.—An evening Concert was given at the opening of the New Masonic Hall on the 4th ult, under the presidency of the Right Honourable Lord Kensington, M.P. The vocalists were Miss Julia Jones, Mr. C. Videon Harding, and Mr. Fergus Asquith; solo violinists, Messrs. E. Ribbon and S. Dawkins. The band of the 1st Pembrokeshire Rifle Volunteers, under the able leadership of Mr. Scotton, also rendered valuable assistance.

Modeling and reduced variable assistance, Modeling—Mission and Modeling—Mission and Shapley, of the Royal Academy of Music, gave a successful Concert at Davis's Hotel, on the 10th ult. The feature of the evening was the pianoforte-playing of the bin/picaire, which was warmly applauded. The vocalists were Miss Mary Beare, the Misses Hicks and Mr. Hosking; Mr. John Pardew (violin) and Mr. Alfred Davis (pianoforte) also contributing solos.

Newark.—On Tuesday, the 17th ult., the Amateur Choral Society gave the first part of The Messiah and a miscellaneous selection in the Town Hall. The principal vocalists were Mrs. Daglish, Miss Phillips, Mr. J. Gregory, Mus. Bac., Oxon., and Mr. Bingley Shaw. Miss Lilley was the accompanist, and Mr. S. Reay, Mus. Bac., Oxon., conducted.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—An excellent Concert was given at the Town Hall by Mr. T. A. Alderson's Choir on December 26, the programme including Hofmann's Legend of the Fais Melusina and Gade's Christmas Eve, both of which works were most ably rendered by the choir, numbering 150 voices. The singing of Mrs. W. F. Whatford as Melusina was much admired. We are glad to find that Mr. Alderson proposes to organise an orchestra in connection with his choir.—A Concert was given on the 18th ult, by Mr. Samuel Wiggins, in the Northumberland Hall, which was well attended. Mr. Wiggins was highly successful in several pianoforte solos, and also in a duet of his own composition, for violin and pianoforte, in which he was assisted by Mr. A. P. Spence. The vocalists were Mrs. C. H. Shepherd, Miss Brooks, Mr. G. H. Welch, and Mr. J. Nutton; Conductor, Mr. C. H. Shepherd, Miss

Newport, Monmouthshire.—On Thursday, the 19th ult., at the Signor C Albert Hall, Miss Clara Dowle gave a Concert, assisted by Mrs. H. thur, &c.

Langmaid, Miss Laura Dowle, Mr. F. E. Wade, Mr. Richards, Mr. W. H. Williams, and Mr. G. Rickards, solo pianist and accompanist. The Concert was very successful, Miss Dowle being enthusiastical received in all her songs.

NEWTOWN.—On December 26 an evening Concert was given in the Congregational Chapel, under the presidency of Mr. James Hall, Tiberincipal vocalists were Mrs. Joseph Morris, Messrs. J. James, W.R. Parry, and J. H. Jones. The choir was efficient throughout the evening; and the organist, Mr. W. P. Philips, deserves much credit for his exertions in organising so excellent a concetr.

NORTHAMPTON.—The Choral Society, which has lately been reconstituted upon a more popular basis, gave the second Concert of the presensession, on the 5th ult., in the Corn Exchange. The Messah was selected for performance, and its rendering reflected great credit upon the Conductor, Mr. Brook Sampson, Mus. Bac., who was appointed a the beginning of the session. The soloists were Miss Robertson, Mis. F. Robertson, Mr. Piercy, and Mr. Henry Pope.

NORTH WALSHAM.—The Annual Concert of the Amateur Musici Society was given in the National Schoolroom on the 11th ult, whe Handle's Judas Maccabarus was the work selected. The principal vocalists were Miss Jessie Jones, Mrs. John Wilkinson, Mr. Harpe Kearton, and Mr. J. H. Brockbank; pianoforte, Mr. Walter Liai harmonium, Mr. John Dixon. The band and chorus consisted of about eighty performers. The Oratorio was well rendered, and the band, though small, was very efficient. The singing of the choruse reflected great credit on the Conductor, Dr. Horace Hill, of Norwich.

Oldham.—On Monday evening, the 16th ult., a Concert was giver in the Co-operative Hall, Greenacres Hill, the vocalists being Mis Greaves, Mrs. Mitton, Miss S. Greaves, Messrs, Smith, Roberts, and Percy Peplow. Mr. J. Greaves and the Watersheddings Orchestri Band accompanied, and Mr. George Bardsley conducted.—The eight Dopular Concert took place on Monday evening, the 23rd ult. in the Henshaw Street Coffee Tavern, when the vocalists were Messrs. Coulton, Brette, Greaves, and several amateurs. Mr. J. Greaves accompanied.

OTTAWA.—A very good performance of Barnett's Ancient Mariae was given by the members of the Choral Society on Thursday, December 15, in the Grand Opera House. The solos were well rendered by Miss Maloney, Miss Torrington, Miss L. Hurdman, and Mr. Gauthie. There was an efficient orchestra, led by Mr. Reichling. Mrs. Harrison presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. Harrison conducted. The Cantata was preceded by a few part-songs and solos, including "Up the dreadfal steep" (Handel), excellently sung by Miss Denzill.

PAISLEY, N.B.—On Friday evening, the 13th ult., an Organ Recital was given in the Abbey, by the Organist, Mr. J. Barratt, Mus. B. There was a large audience, and Mr. Barratt's playing was much appreciated. The organ is by M. Cavaillé-Coll, and its fine qualities were clearly exhibited and much admired.

PENZANCE.—A performance of the Oratorio Elijah was given in St. John's Hall by the Choral Society on December 27. The principal vocalists were Miss G. Nunn, Mrs. Nunn, Mr. Sampson, and Mr. James Sauvage. Mr. J. H. Nunn conducted, and Mr. R. White, jun, resided at the organ. The rendering of the work was in every respect highly satisfactory.—A Concert was given, on the 13th ult., by Mr. White, jun, assisted by Miss Clara Dowle, Mr. M. Sampson, Mr. Wills (vocalists), and Mr. J. Pardew (violin). The Concert was given to the concert was given t

PETERHEAD.—A performance of Handel's Messiah was given in the Temperance Hall, on December 28. The choruses were very credit ably sung, by the Choral Union, under the conductorship of Mr. J. Wood, and the band was led by Mr. Justice. The principal vocalists were Miss Annie Dawson, Miss Amy Ronayne, Mr. Herbert Parratt, and Mr. Andrew McCall.

PLYMOUTH.—The Messiah was performed in the Guildhall, on Wednesday, December 21, by the members of the Vocal Association, Mr. F. N. Löhr conducting. The solos were well rendered by Misses K. Lifitton, A. Dwelley, K. Adams, Anthony, and Messrs, C. Watts, W. H. K. Wright, W. H. Jarvis, and J. Barker. Mr. A. Faull presided at the organ.—On Saturday, the 14th ult., a Popular Concert was given at the Guildhall. The vocalists were Miss Clara Dowle, Miss Annie Dwelley, and Mr. Moon, all of whom were highly successful, Mr. Elford's cornet solos being also much appreciated. Mr. Hannaford presided at the organ.

PRESTON.—The Concert of the Vocal Union, on December 21, in the Town Hall, was in every respect highly successful. The first part of the programme was devoted to a performance of Gade's Cautata The Evi-King's Daughter, the principal vocalists being Miss Greenwood, Miss Tasker, and Mr. J. B. Christie. In the second part, which was miscellaneous, a Trio by Mozart was effectively performed by Miss Donkersley (violin), Mr. Cuttle (viola), and Mr. Tattersall (violoncello). Mr. W. Tattersall was the Conductor.—On the fiftieth anniversary of the appointment of Mr. J. Greaves as Organist of the Parish Church, a testimonial was presented to him at the Town Hall, in the presence of a large audience. The gift was a purse containing roo guineas, which had been subscribed by past and present members of St. John's Choir, of the congregation of the church, and other friends. The Vicar, the Rev. J. H. Rawdon, alluded in flattering terms to the long and valuable services of Mr. Greaves, and mentioned the probability of a Choral Association being shortly formed in Preston.

READING.—An Organ Recital was given after the evening service at Christ Church on Wednesday, December 28, by Mr. F. J. Read, Mus. Bac. The programme was well selected and highly interesting.—The Royal Berkshire Academy of Music, under the patronage of her Royal Highness Princess Christian and many influential ladies in the county, has been recently formed in this town. Sir Julius Benedict is to be examiner, Herr Ernst Pauer lecturer, and the list of professors includes the names of Mr. J. Francis Barnett, Miss Emma Barnett, Signor Caravoglia, Signor Montecco, Herr Rosenthal, Herr Oberthur, &c.

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St. Helens.—The members of the Congregational Church Choir the a successful performance of the greater portion of Handel's Messiah afte Congregational Church, on Friday, December 30. Mr. G. Batton ung the tenor solos excellently, the remainder of the vocal numbers being rendered by amateurs. Mr. W. Gardner led the band, Mr. J. Hayes presided at the organ, and Miss A. L. Sharples at the piano. III. J. T. Elliott conducted.

Mr. J. F. Enforce conserved.

Salisbury.—The Vocal Union gave its first Concert of the season in the Hamilton Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 24th ult., to a large and enthusiastic audience. The soloists were Miss Julia Jones, Mr. Hayden, and Mr. Arthur Crick; solo violin, Mr. Alfred Foley—all of whom gave the greatest satisfaction. The Vocal Union now numbers upwards of fifty voices. Miss Kate Harding and Miss Rose Thomas were the accompanists, and Mr. John M. Hayden conducted.

Thomas were the accompanists, and Mr. John M. Hayden conducted.

Sheppield,—Mr. Charles Harvey gave two performances of The

Besnah, the first at the Albert Hall, on December 24, the principal

vealists being Miss Agnes Larkcom, Miss Spenser Jones, Mr. J. W.

Tenrer, and Mr. Grice. Mr. Henry Parkin led the orchestra, Mr. A.

Robinson played the trumpet obbligato, and Mr. Tallis Trimnell

presided at the organ. The band and chorus numbered 300 performers,

onducted by Mr. Harvey. The second performance was given at the

Drill Hall, on December 26. The principal vocalists were Miss Agnes

Larkcom, Miss Spenser Jones, Mr. E. Dunkerton, and Mr. J. Bingley

Shaw. Mr. G. F. Birkinshaw played the trumpet obbligato. The

crossrand was led by Mr. John Peck, Mr. Tallis Trimnell presided at

the organ, and Mr. Charles Harvey conducted.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Mr. George H. L. Edwards gave a successful Concert at the Polytechnic Institution on Wednesday evening, December 21, terminating the first half-session. The vocalists were Mss Agnes Larkcom, Miss Coyte Turner, Mr. C. A. White, and Mr. Franklin Clive; solo pianist and accompanist, Mr. G. H. L. Edwards.

Frankin Clive; solo pianist and accompanist, Mr. G. H. L. Edwards. SENDEBLAND.—Mr. G. F. Vincent's second Chamber Concert took place on Friday, the 20th ult. Miss Dora Schirmacher was the pianist, Mr. H. Lazauus, clarinet, Signor A. Pezze, violoncello, Miss E. Barnett, vocalist, and Mr. G. F. Vincent, Conductor. Miss Schirmacher's performance elicited warm and well-deserved applause. Amongstother items in the programme a Fantasia and Fugue for two pianos by Mr. G. F. Vincent, performed by Miss Schirmacher and the composer, proved most acceptable to the audience.

composer, proved most acceptable to the audience.

Surron.—On the 9th ult. Mr. Dewy gave his first Concert, under
the direction of Mr. Alfred Moore, when an excellent programme was
performed by the following artists: Niss José Shertington, MisKelly McEwen, Miss Emily Dones, Miss Annie Matthews, Messrs.
Arthur Thompson, Lovett King, and Alfred Moore. A new trio, composed by Mr. Myles B. Foster. Organist of the Foundling Chapel,
was sung for the first time, and received with warm applause.

was sung for the first time, and received with warm applause.

TRIM.—On Christmas Eve there was a Special Service in St. Patrick's Cathedral Church, which was semi-choral. After the service the carols "See amid the winter snow," with solos for soprano and tenor, and "The first Nowell," were sung. At the early service on Christmas Day the hymn "O! come all ye laithful "was sung; and at the noon service the following music was given: Opening hymn, No. 87; Venite, 160 (Chants Ancient and Modern); Te Deam, 141; Iphilate, 11; Hymn after Morning Prayer, 79; Hymn before semmon, 83. The anthem consisted of the latter parts of "O! Zion that bringest" (Stainer), and "Behold I bring" (Barnhy). The evening service was semi-choral, the Anthem and Carols, with Hymn 83; being repeated. The Pastoral Symphony (Massinh) was played as a voluntary at all the services by Mr. W. A. Collisson, who was also the accompanist throughout.

UNRIDGE—On Wednesday, the 11th ult., the Colhbrook Choral Society gave a successful concert of secular music in the new Hall (recently erected) in Iver. Mr. Richard Kateliff, Organist of Thorney Church, Iver, conducted.

Nurch, Iver, conducted.

Wellingboro Gh.—On Thursday evening, December 29, The Messiah was performed in the Congregational Church. The soloists were Miss James, Mrs. Huckson, Mrs. Gent, Mr. Brooks, Mr. R. De Lacy, and Mr. J. E. Ekins. The band and chorus numbered about 100, and the performance was in every respect a success. Mr. A. J. Patenall led the band; A. Wildsmith, Esq., of Newark, presided at the organ; and Mr. W. J. Lamb, of Higham Ferrers (the Organist of the church), conducted.

Wellington, Somerset.—On the roth ult, the Harmonic Society gave an excellent performance of *The Messiala*, under the conductorship of Mr. Manley. The principal vocalists were Miss Adela Vernon, Miss Sanford, Miss Fitzgerald, Mr. Tozer, and Mr. Francis, all of whom were highly efficient.

whom were highly efficient.

Willshipol.—The Services at the Parish Church on Christmas Day were full choral. Goss's "Behold, I bring you glad tidings" was the authem in the morning, and the "Gloria" from Mozart's Twelfth Mass in the evening. Proper Psalms were sung to chants by Goss, Ouseley, Weldon, Farrant, and Macfarren, the Magnificat and Nunc dimitis were from Clarke-Whitteld's Service in E, and the "Amen" from Dr. Stainer's Communion Service. Mr. C. A. E. Harriss, the Organist and Choirmaster, gave an Organ Recital before the evening service. The programme was well selected, and Raff's Cavatina for organ and violin was effectively rendered by Mr. Harriss and Mr. C. E. Newman.

C.E. Newman.

Winddon,—There was a large attendance at St. George's Chapel on Christmas Eve. In the introductory voluntary—a very pleasing composition by Sir George Elvey—stringed instruments combined with the organ in producing an excellent effect, especially when the joyous pealing of bells was imitated. The Magnificat and Nonc dimittis were an adaptation from Croft's fine service in A. After the third collect, the Nativity music from Handel's Messiah took the place of the anthem, and consisted of Adagio from the overture; solo, "Comfort ye" (sung with much effect by Mr. Gawthrop); chorus, "And the glory;" solo (Mr. Bateman) and chorus, "O. Thou that tellest;" recitative and air, "The people that walked in darkness" (well rendered by Mr. Sutton Shepley); chorus, "For unto us a child is born;" Pastoral Symphony; recitative, "There were shepherds,"

Master Hillyard; chorus, "Glory to God in the highest;" recitative and air, "He shall feed His flock," Master Wiltshire; air, "Come unto Me," Master Lewis; chorus, "Hallelujah!" The congregation stood during the singing of "For unto us," "There were shepherds," "Glory to God." and the "Hallelujah" Chorus. The choirs of St. George's and Eton College, augmented by several members of the Choral Society, &c., numbered seventy-two voices. Several carols were sung, and Sir G. Elvey's "Albert Edward March" formed the concluding voluntary.

Wolverhampton.—An excellent performance of *The Messiah* was given in the Agricultural Hall on Thursday, December 28, by the members of the Festival Choral Society, under the conductorship of Dr. Heap. Miss Agnes Larkom, Mdlle. Helene Arnim, Mr. Redfern Hollins, and Signor Foli were the solo vocalists, and Mr. Robinson played the trumpet obbligato.

played the trumpet obbligato. Workington, and the Vocal Union gave a performance of The Messiah, on Tuesday, December 27, in St. John's Church, by the kind permission of the vicar. The solo vocalists were Madame Edith Wynne, Miss Martha Harries, Mr. Shakespeare, and Mr. Maybrick. Mr. Dearnaly, of the Parish Church, Ashton-under-Lyne, presided at the organ, and Mr. Walter Williams conducted.

Worksop.—On December 21 the first concert of this season was given by the Choral Society, in the Corn Exchange Assembly Rooms. The programme comprised the scriptural Idylentitied Rebekaia (Barnby) and the Twelfth Mass (Mozart). There were also some miscellaneous selections of great merit. The principal vocalists were Mr. Dunkerton, Miss Rissmann, Miss Hardcastle, and Mr. J. Mackie. Mr. Hamilton White, of Retford, conducted.

York.—A performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah was given by the Musical Society in the Festival Concert Rooms on December 22, which attracted a large audience. The principal vocalists were Miss Tominson, Miss Orridge, Mr. King, and Mr. Bywater; Mr. Burton being, as usual, a highly efficient Conductor.

THE Concert given by the St. Cecilia Society, noticed in our last umber, should have been headed Blackburn, instead of Hull.

Organist Appointments.—Mr. James Halle to Clapham Congregational Church, Grafton Square, S.W.—Mr. Edwin M. Lott, Organist and Director of the Choir to St. Ethelburga, Bishopsgate, E.C.—Mr. F. W. Clarke, Mus. Bac., Oxon., to St. Peter's, Dulwich.—Mr. Law Starkey, Organist and Choirmaster to Greyfriars' Church, Dumfries.—Mr. Douglas H. Hallett, A.C.O., Organist and Choirmaster to St. Alban's, Cheetwood, Manchester,—Mr. Arthur J. Greenish, F.C.O., to St. Saviour's Church, Haverstock Hill, N.W.—Mr. James W. Hammond to St. Paul's, Bunbill Row, E.C.—Mr. Harvey Pinches, Organist and Choirmaster to St. Anne's Church, Gosport,—Mr. George Dixon, Organist and Choirmaster to St. Anne's Church, Hoxton.—Mr. W. G. Rumacres, Organist and Choirmaster to the Parish Church of Holy Trinity, South Heigham, Norwich.—Mr. Joseph Arthur Luckam, Organist and Choirmaster to St. John's Church, Steffield.—Mr. Welsh Leith, Organist and Choirmaster to the Parish Church, Wishaw, N.B.
Chotra Appendix Appendix Appendix and Choirmaster to the Parish Church, Wishaw, N.B.

Choir Appointmints.—Mr. W. S. Brown (Alto) to Holy Trinity, Brompton.—Mr. Henry E. Vickers (Bass) to St. Peter's, South Croydon.—Mr. Hugh Davis (Alto) to the Italian Church, Hatton Garden.—Mr. H. W. Suter (Tenor) to Holy Trinity, Brompton.—Mr. Charles E. Tinney, Choirmaster to St. James's Church, Kidbrooke, Blackheath.

DEATHS.

On December 17, 1881, at his residence, 5, Ampton Street, W.C., THOMAS WESTROP, aged 60.
On December 22, 1881, Madame ALEXANDER NEWTON, aged 63.
On New Year's Day, JANET, wife of Dr. MOSK (Organist and Choirmaster of York Minster), aged 51.
On the 8th ult., at Nice, T. G. DAY, medalist of the Royal Academy of Music, and founder of the Kensington Choral Association, aged 23.

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5 (12).	F major	***	***	3	0	***	1	2	***	1	10	
6 (10).	A major			3	0	***	I	2	***	1	10	
7 (5).	C major		***	3	4	***	1	4	***	I	10	
8 (14).	E flat maj	OT		3	0	***	1	4		I	10	
12 (11).	B flat maj	or	***	3	4	***	I	6	***	2	0	
14 (8).	D minor	***		3	6	***	1	8	***	2	0	
15 (1).	C major	***	***	3	4	***	I	6	***	2	0	
16 (6).	E flat maj	OF		3	6	***	1	8		2	0	
17 (2).	A major			3	0	***	I	4	0 = 0	I	10	
18 (7).	C minor	***		3	4	***	1	6	***	2	0	
19 (16).	C major		***	3	4	***	1	6	***	2	0	
20 (20).	D major	***	***	3	6	***	1	8		2	0	

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IN A CHEAP FORM FOR CHOIRS AND CHORAL SOCIETIES

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